■ BUSINESS / B2-1

Tales of desperate Filipino housewives

■ LIFESTYLE / C1

Noh theater comes to Manila

■ NEWS / A2

Kofi Annan backs RP debt-for-equity plan

■ ENTERTAINMENT / A2-1

2 Pinoys shine in Fox's dance contest

No classes today, no work in gov't offices

THERE WILL will be no classes today in all public and private schools nationwide, and no work in government offices, except the Bureau of Customs.

But employees in the private sector, except for teachers, will have to report for work today, a public holiday declared by Malacañang in observance of National Heroes Day yesterday.

NO CLASSES/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Anti-GMA groups try 'doggone' protest

By DJ Yap

THE CALL for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo has turned into a bark.

Where people had little success in their

ANTI-GMA/ A9

Gordon: No politics in Subic shake-up

Senator says he's not after SBMA post

By TJ Burgonio
in Manila
and Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SEN. RICHARD Gordon yesterday scoffed at reports that he had a hand in the sudden resignation of Francisco Licuanan III as chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA).

Gordon branded as unfair insinuations that he influenced the appointment of SBMA Director Armand Arreza, a protégé of the senator, as a replacement for SBMA Administrator Alfredo Antonio.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to appoint Arreza, instead of Licuanan's nominee Roberto Garcia, hastened the SBMA chair's resignation, according to sources. Garcia is the president of automotive battery maker Ramcar.

"Why are we being blamed for the resignation of one who already made money at Ayala?" Gordon said in a phone interview, referring to Licuanan, former president of Ayala Land Inc.

"We are not after his job." said the senator, a former SBMA chair.

Maverick administration Sen. Joker Arroyo and INQUIRER sources said Saturday that Licuanan was

GORDON/ A22

HERE THEY LIE. Filipinos looking for heroes during these troubled times may well find many of them at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, as the country marked National Heroes Day yesterday. RODEL ROTONI

'Look in the right places, you'll find heroes'

By Luige A. del Puerto

WHERE are the heroes of the new generation?

The mayor of a city where thousands of the country's heroes are buried wonders why the media report mainly on people who think of nothing but themselves.

"When I watch the news, listen to the radio or read the papers, all I see and hear is Filipino destroying Filipino. I see people promoting themselves and their agenda at every opportunity to the detriment of their country," Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga lamented yesterday during National Heroes Day ceremonies at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio.

In attendance were government officials, including Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr., Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga and National Historical Institute Chair Ambeth Ocampo.

August marks the 109th anniversary of the 1896 Revolution and the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II.

"I see greed, I see indifference, I see apathy. It is the heroes I do not see," Tinga said at the final resting place of many soldiers who fought in various wars and of artists who dedicated their talents to improving the nation.

"It makes us wonder where have all the heroes gone," Tinga told a crowd of about 100, many of them veterans of the last world war.

The veterans, proudly wearing their caps, sat in silence as speeches praised them and their fallen comrades. They must have wondered what happened to

LOOK/ A6

'Tipping point' of impeach bid reached

By Michael Lim Ubac

A BATTLE royale among members of the ruling House coalition this week will determine the fate of the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo, lawmakers said yesterday.

Two lawmakers told the INQUIRER that the endorsement of the complaint on Tuesday by four Arroyo allies who called themselves "young guns" was the "tipping point."

It meant that the move to impeach President Arroyo for allegedly rigging last year's presidential election had transcended party lines, said the two lawmakers, who asked not to be named.

The two were referring to Representatives Robert Ace Barbers, Edmund Reyes, Robert Jaworski Jr. and Gilbert Remulla.

In a phone interview, Reyes confirmed this, saying: "For us

TIPPING/ A6

Petitions flood 'Text Mary' project server

By Christian V. Esguerra

ONE LONELY heart implored the heaven for a boyfriend. Another prayed that her man would marry her soon enough. Others, clearly in a financial hole, pleaded for divine help so that they could pay off their debts.

The signs of the times are reflected in the packed server of "Text Mary," a mobile phone-based Church project put up to bring Filipino Catholics closer to their faith.

Prayer petitions, mostly seeking God's help in these trying times, have been flooding mobile phone companies Globe, Smart and Sun since the program was launched more than a week ago.

Pleas, like "Lord, help us in our financial matters," have become

PETITIONS/ A6

TERROR ON WHARF

28 hurt in Basilan ferry bombing

By Julie Alipala, Troy Malcolm and Rolly San Juan
PDI Mindanao Bureau

LAMITAN, Basilan—It had seemed like one of those normally busy mornings at the Dangkalan wharf here. Then, at 7 a.m., the sound of an explosion ripped through a ferry. A stampede broke out.

People screamed: "A bomb! A bomb!"

"Definitely, it was a terrorist attack meant to harm and sow fear among the people ... There is a possibility that it was perpetrated by the Abu Sayyaf," said Brig. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade.

At least 28 people were injured in the attack on the MV Doña Ramona yesterday as it waited for clearance from the Coast Guard to sail to Zamboanga City with more than 200 passengers on board.

Seven of those injured were children.

The bomb went off in the ferry's canteen. It had been apparently stashed in a box of clothes.

The attack occurred 18 months after suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits bombed the SuperFerry 14 near Manila, killing more than 100 people, and followed warnings from security officials that Jemaah Islamiyah militants had slipped into the country to carry out terror bombings.

Military and local civilian officials said the explosion might have been caused either by an improvised explosive device (IED), a homemade bomb, or blast fishing materials. Some officials had initially said the blast was caused by a leak in a liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tank.

Hysteria swept the ferry as

28 HURT/ A22

AFP

CHILDREN SUFFER MOST. A wounded boy is carried by a police officer after a bomb exploded in a ferry in Basilan, injuring at least 28 people.

People power illiberal strain of RP democracy

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

AMID the political turmoil over the alleged irregularities in the conduct of the 2004 presidential election, it is helpful to consider a fresh perspective from which to view the current crisis.

The perspective raises the issue whether the Philippines has become more democratic after the ouster of the Marcos dictatorship by People Power I in 1986, or whether democracy has been undermined by "illiberal" tendencies.

This perspective, which allows us to pause from the narrow focus of the turmoil now heading for a showdown in the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo, is offered by an essay in the journal Contemporary Southeast Asia No. 1 (2005).

The provocative essay is written by John L. Linantud, assistant professor of political science at the University of Houston, with the title, "The 2004 Philippine Elections' Political Change in an Illiberal Democracy."

Linantud's thesis is that "the growth of democracy has outpaced that of liberalism since 1986, an imbalance that has created illiberal democracy." The essay uses the 2004 elections as a window of democracy that illustrates the gap between democracy and liberalism.

It defines "liberal" as "seeking to change the status quo." It recognizes that since 1986, elections "have again become the primary mechanism to determine who controls government, the fundamental characteristic of a democratic state."

In discussing the differences between liberalism and democracy, the essay argues that "for developing countries moving away from authoritarian rule, such as the Philippines, political change in the direction of liberalism or democracy must start at a basic level."

According to the Western example, it argues that liberalism should begin with the replacement of arbitrary or ill-defined state power with "constitutional

PEOPLE/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2005

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Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rianshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/08/29/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

UN chief backs RP debt-equity plan

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE COUNTRY'S bid to be freed from having to pay all of its ballooning foreign debt got a big boost after United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan endorsed the Philippine proposal for a "debt-for-equity" program.

A euphoric Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday announced that the Philippine proposal for a global "Debt-for-Equity-in-MDG-Investments" program aimed at reaching the UN millennium development goal (MDG) of cutting world poverty in half by 2015 had won Annan's "crucial endorsement."

"Your proposal to broaden the scale of debt swaps would help provide debt relief and release additional funds for financing sustainable activities that are key to achieving the millennium development goals," Annan said in a letter to De Venecia.

The proposal would address the mounting external debt of some heavily indebted middle-income countries, including the Philippines.

Under the proposal, 50 percent of the debt-service receipts of lending institutions and multinational commercial banks such as the IMF and the World Bank would be converted to "equity development and anti-poverty projects that poor countries are undertaking to meet their national MDG goals over 2005-15."

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder had earlier endorsed the proposal.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo will present the proposal to the UN Global Summit on Sept. 12 to 14.

The Philippine Ambassador to the UN, Lauro Baja, has been instructed to present it to all the 191 UN missions, said De Venecia.

But De Venecia stressed that the proposal "does not call for debt forgiveness or for debt cancellation."

De Venecia said the Philippines, with foreign debts of roughly $55 billion, would be paying about $4.5 billion in debt amortization this year.

Under the debt-for-equity proposal, half of this amount should be freed per year so "the Philippines would have the equivalent of P120 billion worth of anti-poverty projects," said De Venecia.

He said this amount alone would "ensure the Philippines would be able to meet all its millennium development goals" since instead of having to service interest payments the money could be used for anti-poverty projects.

A third of the proposed P1.05-trillion national budget for 2006 is allocated to debt payments.

The Speaker has been invited to present his proposal's mechanics on Sept. 9 when he addresses some 150 speakers of parliament from all over the world at the UN General Assembly in New York.

The International Monetary Fund also invited De Venecia to address the IMF board of directors and senior officials to brief them on the program's mechanics.

De Venecia said the Philippines' MDG projects over 2005-15 would cost roughly $6.5 billion in social investments yearly.

"Our domestic financing capacity for these projects is $5 billion yearly.

Hence, we face a residual financing gap of $1.5 billion," he said.

The MDG projects that debtor countries like the Philippines can offer as objects of debt-for-equity investments are reforestation, mass housing, energy, ecotourism, irrigation and post-harvest facilities, land reclamation and wealth-creating projects.

De Venecia's proposal has sparked the interest of the Paris Club, the British Treasury, Oil and Petroleum Exporting Countries, Latin American Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

RODEL ROTONI

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia presents the Philippines' proposal for a debt-for-equity swap which has secured the endorsement of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, at a press conference yesterday at the Dusit Hotel.

Revival of diesel engine replacement program mulled

By Blanche S. Rivera

WITH oil prices at record levels, the government has decided to revive the multibillion-peso project to replace the diesel engines of some 200,000 jeepneys to reduce fuel consumption and ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act.

The Natural Resources Development Corp. would open anew discussions on the viability of the engine replacement program (ERP), a controversial project that was aborted early this year after former NRDC chair Gen. Victor Corpus claimed it was anomalous.

NRDC president Angelico T. Salud said he was working out the conditions stipulated in the memorandum of agreement signed between the NRDC and AT Intergrouppe (ATI) in February so the MOA could be implemented.

Under the MOA, ATI and its Italian partner Iveco would supply new engines to the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Associations of the Philippines (Fedjodap), which claims a membership of over 200,000.

The NRDC would facilitate the transactions and would be paid with the interest on the installment payments for the engines.

"When we have a board meeting, I'll present everything and I'll ask them if they want to continue with the program. My recommendation is to go ahead with it," Salud said in an interview.

Salud said he was optimistic the ERP would proceed.

"I expect 10-15 percent savings in fuel consumption by drivers because obviously a new engine would be more fuel efficient than an old or reconditioned one," he said.

He said he would ask Environment Secretary Michael T. Defensor to convene the NRDC board next month.

Defensor, who has denied Corpus' allegation that he received P10 million for the ERP, assumed the NRDC chairmanship after Corpus resigned on April 27 in disgust over the ERP.

He has not convened the board since May.

The board—composed of the NRDC president, secretaries of environment, transportation, trade and finance, and the chairs of the Development Bank of the Philippines and National Economic Development Authority—last convened on Mar. 14 where the MOA was discussed.

"If you remember, what we had then was conditional approval. There are four conditions before the MOA can be executed," Salud said.

Three of the four conditions required for the execution of the MOA have been fulfilled since the MOA was signed.

These include the publication by the NRDC of an advertisement opening the ERP to other firms, the assurance by Pilipinas Engine Remanufacturing and Reconditioning Corp. that it would settle the issue of P1.5 million released by the NRDC for an initial engine replacement project that was shelved, and a commitment letter from Fedjodap.

"The board wanted to make sure that the major market, which are the jeepney drivers belonging to Fedjodap, remained interested," Salud said.

The only unfulfilled condition was a letter from the Trade and Investment Development Corp., also known as the Philippine Export-Import Credit Agency, saying that there was an application from ATI-Iveco to secure a $180-million loan guarantee from Tidcorp.

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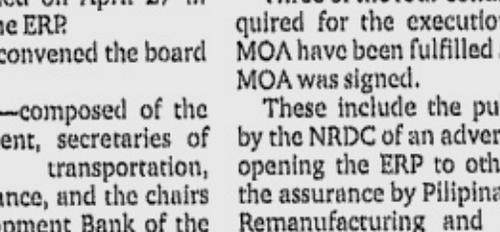
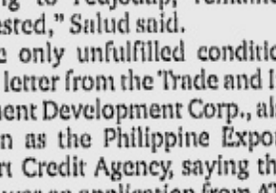
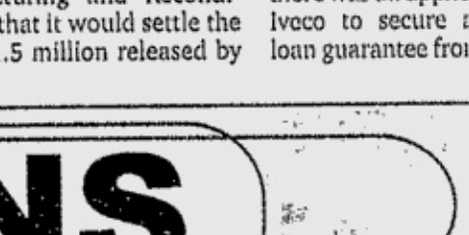
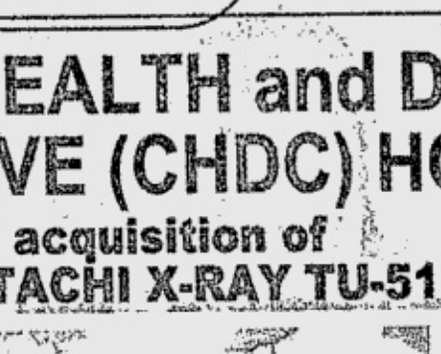
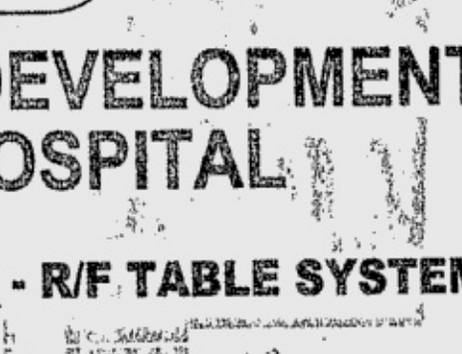






Ribbon Cutting(left to right)
Dr. WARLITO C. VICENTE-Chairman of the Board
and Dr. Ma. LOURDES LACANILAO-Radiologist.





In the Radiology Department(left to right)
Dr. CYRUS ESTERA-Radiologist; DAISY MANGAWANG - Senoir Sales Manager of HIMEX Corp; Dr. CECILIO GEMPESAW; Dr. Ma. LOURDES LACANILAO- Radiologist; Ms. REMA P. OHNO-EVP of HIMEX Corp.; Dr. IMELDA LOCSIN-Radiologist

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Tons of hazardous waste enter rivers, dumps daily–DENR

By Blanche S. Rivera

EVERY DAY, 11 tons or roughly 110,000 kilos of hazardous waste from Metro Manila's health care facilities find their way into rivers and open dumpsites, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources revealed.

The untreated hazardous waste represents 41 percent, or almost half, of the total 27 tons generated daily by the 3,670 health care facilities in the metropolis that are registered with the Department of Health.

The waste comes from hospitals, medical schools, funeral parlors, pharmaceutical labs, dental and veterinary clinics, health centers, blood banks and even research institutions that do not have their own waste treatment facilities and cannot be accommodated in the country's waste treatment plants.

"The waste is probably thrown in open dumps or rivers and other bodies of water, so it has an adverse effect on health," Environment Secretary Michael T. Defensor said.

There are only six treatment and disposal facilities for hazardous waste in the country, two of which are in Cavite. The Visayas has none.

The six facilities have the capacity to treat only 16 tons of waste daily, leaving around 11 tons of toxic and hazardous waste unaccounted for, Environmental Management Bureau executive director Lolibeth Medrano said.

To address the alarming volume of untreated waste, the DENR and DOH set up a new system that makes proper waste treatment and disposal a requirement for licensing of a health care facility.

Defensor and Health Secretary Francisco T. Duque III signed the joint administrative order on the guidelines for the handling, treatment, storage and disposal of the hazardous waste at the DENR office in Quezon City last week.

"After the ban on incinerators, we've had problems on how to address health care waste. There was a huge gap in the treatment, and we could not monitor the waste disposal. This is a big step toward addressing that gap," Medrano said.

The joint administrative order followed two years of tedious discussions spanning different DOH and DENR chiefs.

Under the new system, hospitals and other health care institutions are required to register with the DENR as "hazardous waste generators" and submit a waste treatment plan before the DOH would renew their licenses.

Those who do not register with the DENR and who do not have the approved treatment facility or disposal plan would not get their licenses or accreditation from the DOH. Health care facilities renew their licenses yearly.

The discharges from health care facilities include general solid waste, infectious waste from laboratory work and dressing from wounds, chemical waste like disinfectants and corrosive materials, sharp wastes like needles, syringes and used scalpels, waste with heavy metal content, and pressurized containers.

Some hospitals, like St. Luke's Medical Center, operate their own treatment facilities but the smaller hospitals and clinics have to transport their waste to any of the six treatment plants accredited by the DENR.

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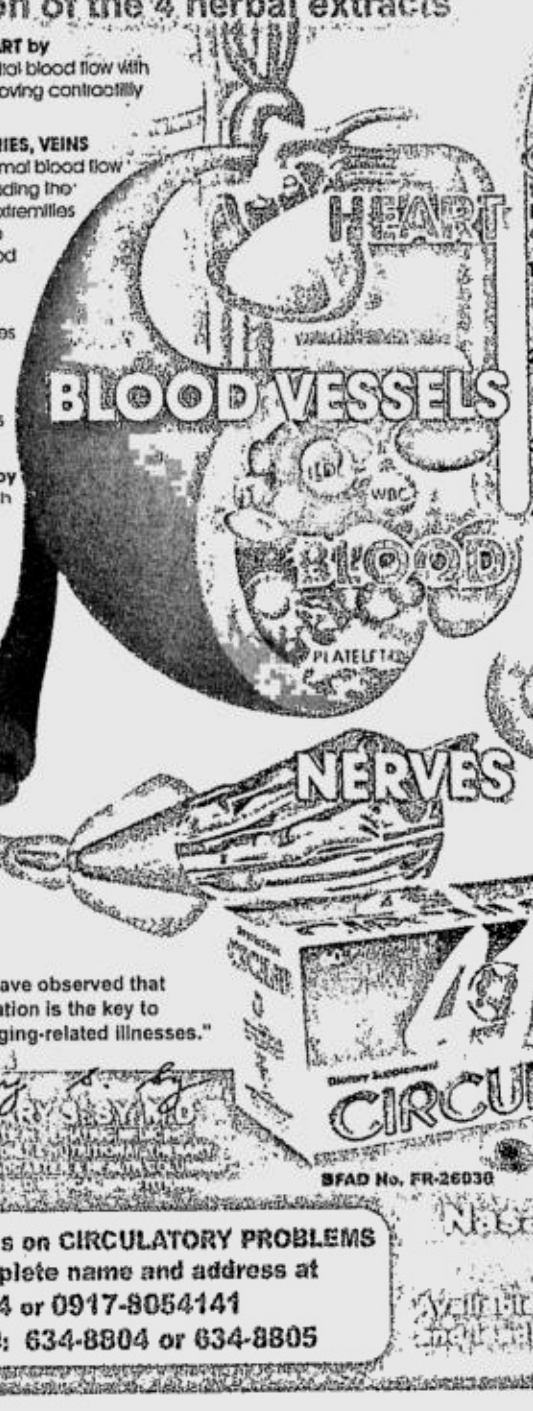

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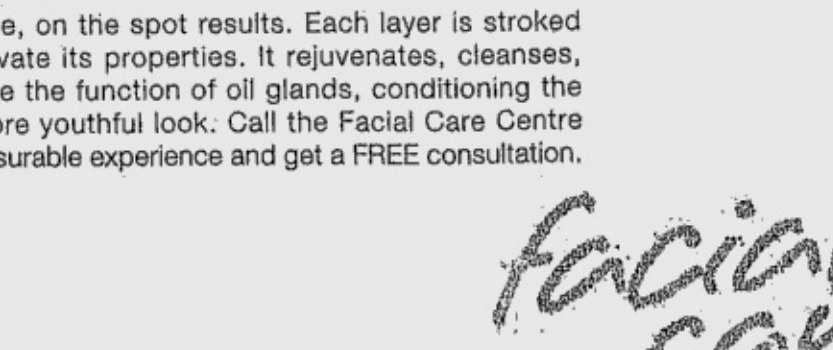

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1 Upgrade your 10-year old unit.

About 600,000 window room air conditioners are 10-years old or older. The difference in wattage between these old units and a new one could save you about 31%. What's more, the long-term savings in electricity will cover the cost of a new unit.

2 If your unit has an ESP or timer, use it!

Some window room air conditioners have a special device called an Energy Saving Plug. This device, working in tandem with a timer and fan, reduces the running time of your aircon – saving you as much as 29%. If your aircon doesn't have an ESP, maybe it's about time that you got one.

3 Cut down on the number of units in use.

Households with more than one window room air conditioner should consider minimizing the number of units operating at the same time. For instance the kids, or even the whole family, could share a room at night if it's big enough. That way, not all their units run simultaneously.

4 Use your air con for an hour less.

What's one hour less? It's about 13% savings. Besides, the residual coolness in the room will keep you comfortable just long enough before the time that you have to get up anyway.

5 Adjust the thermostat 1 degree higher than usual.

The cooler a room has to be, the harder the aircon has to work and the more power it needs. One degree higher isn't much; you might not even notice the difference. What you will notice are savings of as much as 3%.

6 Clean and maintain your air conditioner regularly.

Dirt buildup and unbalanced refrigerant charges will decrease your aircon's efficiency. Keeping it in tip-top shape could save you as much as 3%.

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DOT sees gates of Intramuros as tourist come-on

By Jerome Aning

IF FRANCE has its Eiffel Tower and China the Great Wall, the Philippines would have its Intramuros gateway.

According to Tourism Undersecretary for Tourism Services and Regional Offices Oscar Palabyab, the historic structure in Manila could be used as the national emblem to symbolize and promote the Philippines abroad.

"Intramuros symbolizes our unique Christian heritage and European traditions which differentiate us from other countries in the region," Palabyab said during the recent Department of Tourism launch of "Ciudad Murada," a guide to historic walking tours of Intramuros.

Because it is a landmark, the arched gates of Intramuros would make a better symbol than the jeepney, carabao, sarimanok or vinta, all of which have been used to promote the Philippines, he said.

The tourism official pointed out that the white beaches, mountain resorts and other natural attractions of the Philippines were also found in other countries.

The Euro-Christian culture, however, mixed with Asian tradition was unique to Philippines, he said.

For instance, in East Asia, Intramuros, Roman Catholic Baroque-style churches and fiestas could only be found in the Philippines, Palabyab said.

Intramuros, a fortress-like medieval complex along the Pasig River, was the original city of Manila during the Spanish colonial period. It served as the political, commercial, educational and religious center in the 400-year Spanish rule.

Known also as the "Walled City" or "Old Manila," the complex and several of its buildings have been undergoing conservation and restoration since the '70s under the DOT-attached agency, the Intramuros Administration.

The image of any of the five gates or *puertas* of Intramuros, namely, the Postigo, Santa Lucia, Real, Parian and Isabel II, could be used as a symbol. The gates were built between 1590 and 1830 and each is unique.

Philippine Tourism Authority general manager Robert Dean Barbers earlier proposed the selection of an infrastructure landmark that could become the byword for the Philippines in the international tourism market, like Cambodia's Angkor Wat, Russia's Kremlin, Brazil's Statue of Christ the Redeemer and Britain's London Bridge.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, August 29, 2005
Beheading of John the Baptist
1st Reading: Jer 1:17-19
Gospel: Mark 6:17-29

For this is what had happened. Herod had ordered John to be arrested and had him bound and put in prison because of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip. Herod had married her and John had told him, "It is not right for you to live with your brother's wife." So Herodias held a grudge against John and wanted to kill him, but she could not because Herod respected John. He knew John to be an upright and holy man and kept him safe. And he liked listening to him, although he became very disturbed whenever he heard him.

Herodias had her chance on Herod's birthday, when he gave a dinner for all the senior government officials, military chiefs and the leaders of Galilee. On that occasion the daughter of Herodias came in and danced; and she delighted Herod and his guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want and I will give it to you." And he went so far as to say with many oaths, "I will give you anything you ask, even half my kingdom." She went out to consult her mother, "What shall I ask for?" The mother replied, "The head of John the Baptist." The girl hurried to the king and made her request: "I want you to give me the head of John the Baptist, here and now, on a dish."

The king was very displeased, but he would not refuse in front of his guests because of his oaths. So he sent one of the bodyguards with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded John in prison; then he brought the head on a dish and gave it to the girl. And the girl gave it to her mother. When John's disciples heard of this, they came and took his body and buried it.

Commentary

John, the one who goes before the Lord's face has been arrested for telling the truth on a personal basis to the powerful: the king in his relationship with his brother's wife (he murdered his brother among many others). And he has called all the powerful of the earth to repentance and conversion. And Herod's new wife is intent on killing John since Herod is afraid of him, but won't kill him because of the people. John loses his head at a party, as a gift in return for a young woman's dance. He is beheaded and his disciples bury him, in grief and loss. This was the arrow hidden in the quiver of God, sent to the heart of his people. This was the light in the darkness, bringing hope for salvation, freedom and life. This is the fate of those whose lives cry out justice as surely as their words. It is the end of all the prophets, martyrs, Jesus himself. We do not abide gracefully with purity of truth and being seen for what we truly are. Do we ever go before the face of the Lord preparing his ways with conversion and truth-telling?

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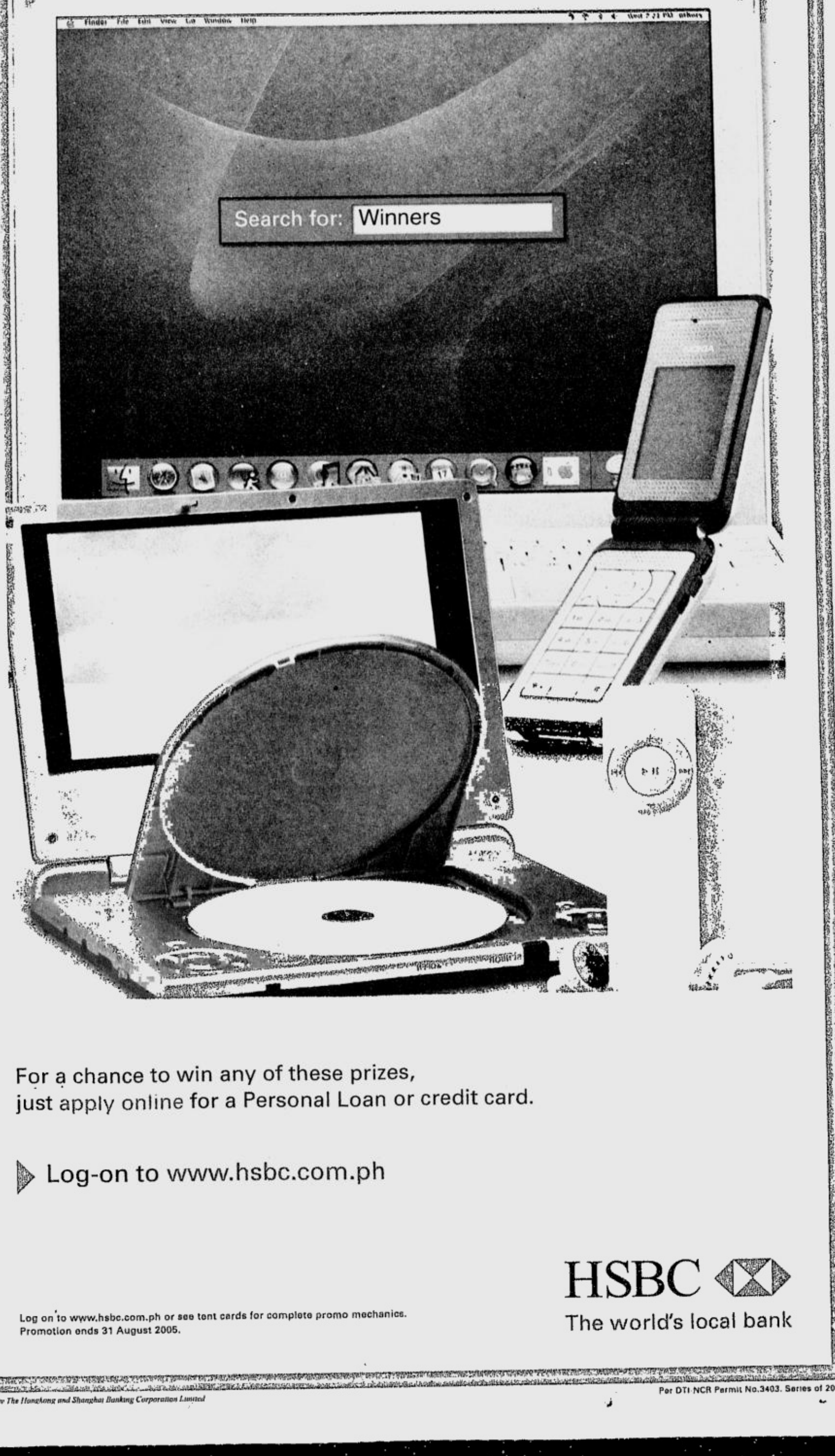

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'Tipping point' of impeachment bid reached

From page A1

four, it's our own personal tipping points. When we saw that they were about to kill the complaint, we made our decision."

He said the country was "coming to a crossroad."

"For weeks, the minority failed to produce the magic 79 signatures to automatically transmit the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate for trial," said one lawmaker.

He lamented the seeming "disarray" within the opposition that continued to hamper efforts to get a third of the House membership of 236 needed to impeach Ms Arroyo.

So far, only 48 House members have signed the impeachment complaint.

Signal

Another administration lawmaker disclosed that the young guns' decision was the "signal" that 33 other congressmen, who had earlier pledged to support the complaint, would officially sign up this week.

"The majority is now making the rounds to gather signatures," said the lawmaker.

To get the nod of the 33 lawmakers, three conditions must be met: There must be a direction—clear succession—once Ms Arroyo is impeached; they don't need to join the opposition, and the proceedings should end soon so that the country can move forward.

Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, lead impeachment prosecutor who earlier said Vice President Noli de Castro would be recognized as the rightful successor, said the opposition only needed "a few" signatures.

Asked to elaborate, impeachment spokesperson Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano said: "We're looking at a single digit. The numbers look encouraging." Cayetano said six to 10 lawmakers would sign the impeachment complaint today.

Reyes had a message to his colleagues who were having second thoughts about supporting the impeachment complaint because of the latest release of pork barrel allocations, including funds purportedly from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

"If ever you receive money for projects, take it and use it for your districts. It's not the President's money or her allies. It's the money of the Filipino people. But vote according to your conscience. Don't feel beholden to the administration," said Reyes.

Silent waters

But Lakas stalwart Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay downplayed this, saying: "Silent waters run deep. But the fact that the opposition lawmakers are noisy about numbers only means that they don't have the numbers."

Three of the 18 members of the so-called conscience bloc within the Lakas-CMD-led administration coalition had already signed the complaint—Barbers, Reyes and Jaworski—and four from the 18-member Nacionalista Party—Remulla, Cayetano, Rep. Justin Chipeco and party-list ally Rep. Joel Villanueva.

The NP lawmakers will play a pivotal role in this crisis since Remulla and NP president Sen. Manuel Villar head the lead committees in both chambers of Congress which conducted investigations of the wiretapped conversations alleging ballot fixing in 2004 and the "jueteng" scandal, respectively.

The rest of the signatures should come from the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino led by Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara and Jacinto Paras, and the Liberal Party, possibly led by Rep. Antonio Roman.

Swing vote

The progressive bloc led by Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano expected the tide to turn in the opposition's favor this week.

"The administration is out to kill the impeachment complaint this week before the President leaves for New York. But we are not moved. We expect a swing vote this week."

Malacañang was, in fact, seeking ways of speeding up proceedings in the House justice committee.

TEACHERS and students display antigovernment banners during a torchlight protest calling for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo in Manila. REUTERS

Romulo Macalintal, Ms Arroyo's impeachment spokesperson, said yesterday that instead of engaging in too much debate, the committee could require the congressmen to submit position papers.

"This will expedite proceedings and save precious time," Macalintal said.

Anti-Arroyo forces yesterday said they would mount protests at the Batasang Pambansa starting tomorrow.

Do-or-die effort

The Bagong Alyansang Makayan said it would muster 5,000 members of the leftwing Bayan and the centrist White Ribbon Movement.

"This could very well be do-or-die for the amended impeachment complaint. It is therefore imperative for the people to come out in their numbers and thwart attempts at suppressing the truth," Fr. Jose Dizon, convenor of the Gloria Step Down Movement, said in a statement yesterday.

"The administration has tied a noose around the impeachment complaint and it is getting tighter by the day. Ms Arroyo was emboldened to quash the impeachment when there was a lull in street protests. Now it's time to regain the initiative," Dizon said.

Bayan secretary general Renato M. Reyes said the President was "pulling all the stops to kill the impeachment." He also scored Ms Arroyo's call for reconciliation and national unity amid the oil crisis while her allies were busy fighting the impeachment complaint in Congress.

"Killing the impeachment is a declaration of all-out war against the people. It again contradicts Ms Arroyo's call for reconciliation," he said. *With reports from Blanche S. Rivera, Alcuin Papa and Christine O. Avendaño*

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Petitions flood 'Text Mary' project server

From page A1

all too familiar, revealing the economic woes that seem to engulf most Filipinos today.

One texter prayed that he could sell his Toyota Revo to a "good buyer" soon so he could wipe out all his debts. Another also seemed buried in debt; she wants it settled in two weeks.

One wished that his travel papers would be approved soon so he could secure a US visa and work there. One mother prayed that her son would land a job as a graphic artist.

Another wanted to join her husband who has been working in Saudi Arabia. Still another was eyeing a job in Canada or New Zealand and seemed desperate for God's help.

Lotto jackpot

"May the Lord provide financial assistance for my husband's fare and allowance and for the payment of my debts," texted one petitioner.

Another texter wanted nothing short of a lotto jackpot.

While all these messages clearly reflected the economic ills besieging the populace, organizers belonging to the Way of Mary Foundation of the late Jaime Cardinal Sin were happy that Text Mary was also bringing people closer to God.

"It's an eye-opener for us," Noli Yamsuan, one of the foundation's organizers and Sin's personal photographer for 20 years, told the INQUIRER yesterday. "Even if people are preoccupied with material things, they're still wanting in prayers. Indeed, they have spiritual needs that need to be addressed."

Texting Mary

This observation was mirrored by novena petitions, which comprise most of the texts received by Naimar Management Inc., the company overseeing the Text Mary project.

Paolo Reyes, the company's managing director, yesterday said servers received an average of 200 novena downloads daily while prayer petitions numbered at least 100.

The system works by texting "MARY" to Globe (2219), Smart (483) or Sun (2823). By subsequently sending "ROSARY," one will have a petition included in the prayers of the Carmelite nuns.

Punching the word "MASS" will send one's petition to any of the daily Masses at the Manila Cathedral or in the churches of Baclaran, Quiapo and Ermita. The keyword "NOVENA" will download prayers good for the next nine days.

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Reyes said Text Mary had received petitions ranging from the deeply personal to the almost trivial.

The upcoming bar examinations, set to start next Sunday, has further flooded the system. So did desperate voices seeking divine intervention for a sick friend or relative.

'Make him marry me'

One texter appeared to be in a quagmire: he's jobless and he wants to recover his investment in a "pyramiding" company.

One mother seemed caught between career and family life. She asked God to grant her desire to be a full-time mother by giving her the courage to resign from her job.

Some petitions concerned matters of the heart and their senders seemed troubled.

"I'm praying that ... [man's name] ... will keep his promise to marry me early next year and that he will call me soon," wrote one young woman.

Another petitioner texted, asking the Lord to grant her friend a boyfriend within the year.

'Look in the right places, you'll find heroes'

From page A1

their dream of a free and prosperous Philippines.

Alfredo Vasquez, who fought the Japanese as a private in World War II, said the problem was "too much politics" in the country.

"Look at Congress," the 81-year-old veteran said, "they can't even finish important bills."

Vasquez was most likely referring to the impeachment hearing against President Macapagal-Arroyo, which is now taking up most of the lawmakers' energy.

Look in right places

Pedro Guiterrez, also a veteran, said that if the Philippines could only have less of politicking, there was no reason it could not move forward.

But while there was an air of disappointment, Tinga said there was certainly hope and heroism. One only needed to look in the right places to find them.

"We just need to recognize them," the mayor said. "(They include) the taxi driver who returns money left in his cab; the teacher who still considers the future of her students her priority; the policeman who refuses to accept a bribe and performs his job despite the dangers and temptations involved."

They also include the unknown social worker, underpaid but full of devotion, and the overseas worker, who slaves abroad but is a good provider at home.

Pay attention

"It's just that we aren't paying attention to them," he said.

In his speech, Defense Secretary Cruz paid tribute to the men and women "who made the supreme sacrifice."

To them his generation owes a debt that cannot be fully repaid, Cruz said.

"I believe the highest form of appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them ... by making this nation and its institutions worthy of their death and great sacrifices," he said.

For him, the battle has changed and shifted from the trenches of the war front. "Today's battle is fought in our daily lives," he said. "It is [fought] in the way we live as responsible citizens."

NHI Chair Ocampo spoke about one lesson of history that man never seems to learn—avoiding war.

The government is facing a secessionist movement in Mindanao and a 36-year communist insurgency.

Awed by the great number of people buried at the Libingan, Ocampo said anyone who visits such cemeteries usually "resolves never to have war again."

"And yet as a historian, we realize that that never happens," he told the crowd. "Man is so unique that he often chooses the wrong path and goes to war again and again."

Tribute

Thus, history has given mankind numerous places and occasions to remember those who died in war, Ocampo said.

"By having one annual National Heroes Day, we pay tribute to all living and dead who continually help in making the Philippines the nation that we want to be, or as a historian I should say, the nation that we failed to be," he said.

"Therefore, by remembering today, we see this as a challenge and hope that we get to that future and that good Philippines that everyone aspires for."

Pre-need firm blames clients

By Alcuin Papa

BESIEGED pre-need firm Pacific Plans Inc. (PPI) has fired back at its plan holders blaming them for the failure of negotiations.

In a statement to the INQUIRER, PPI said the "hardline stand" taken by the plan holders who had organized themselves into the Parents Enabling Parents Coalition (PEP-Coalition) was the reason the talks bogged down.

But Philip Piccio, president of PEP Coalition, denied they took a hardline stance and insisted it was the coalition which bent over backwards to accommodate PPI and come up with an amicable settlement.

The two sides have been at loggerheads since April after PPI filed for rehabilitation in a Makati court, saying it could no longer service its traditional or open-ended plan holders.

According to new PPI president Alfredo Non, PEP Coalition wanted all assets and fixed trust funds of Lifetime Plans Inc., a company spun from PPI, reconsolidated back to PPI and that the funding of the open-ended plans "should not be restricted to its corresponding trust fund assets."

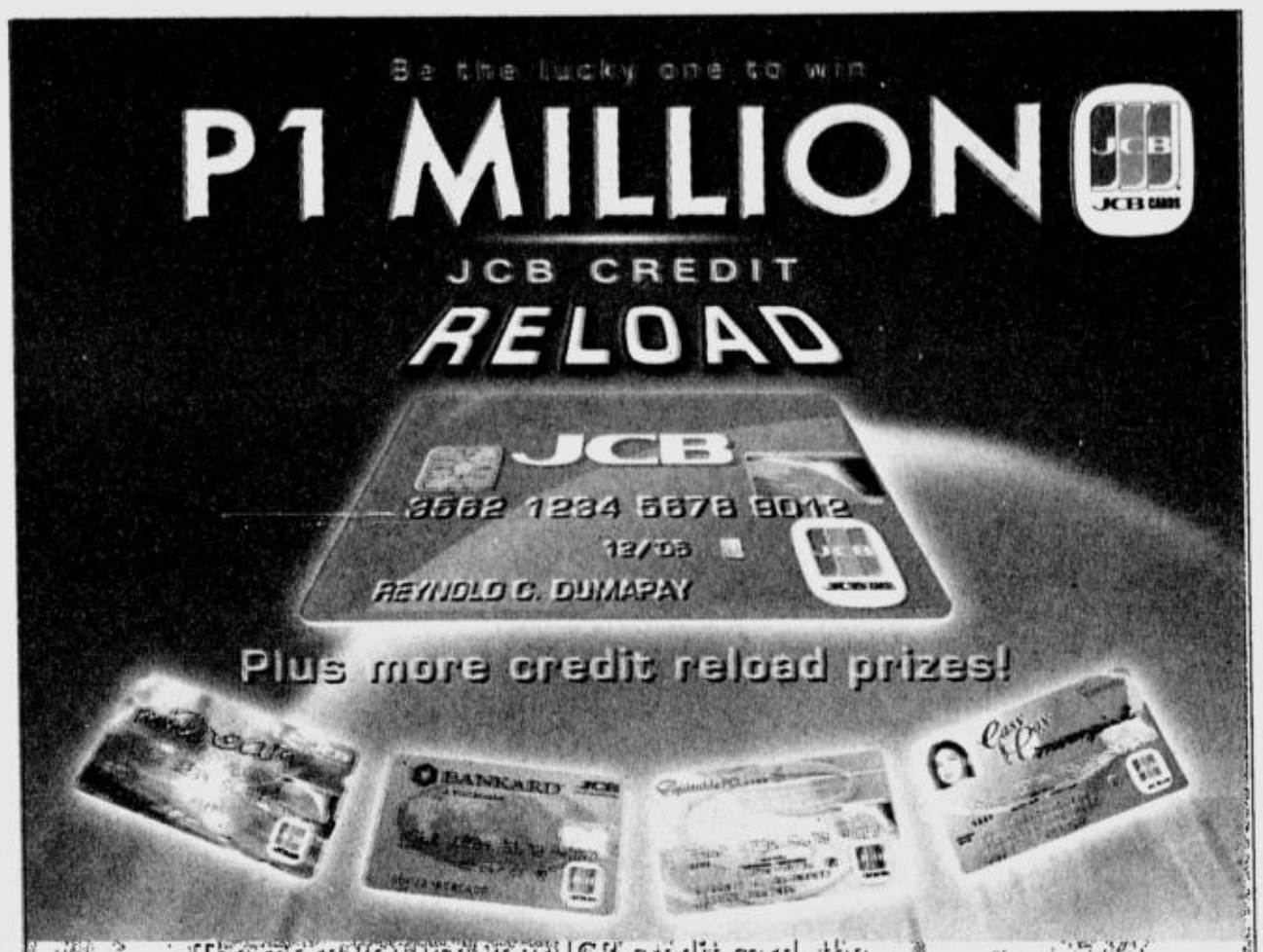
"This is contrary to all existing regulations and will be detrimental to all fixed value plan holders. [It] would have the effect of dipping into the separate funds of other plan holders," Non said.

Non also said the coalition disowned a joint statement by the two sides that was presented to media at the onset of the negotiations. He added that the plan holders refused to enter a joint manifestation with the Makati court hearing the rehabilitation case.

In response, Piccio said assets of PPI should never have been spun out to Lifetime. "They (PPI) should have never taken (PPI assets) out in the first place because it was a fraudulent scheme to escape their obligations. Even courts and the SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) see it that way."

Piccio also denied PPI's claim that they disowned the joint statement and refuted Non's claim that they refused to file a joint manifestation before the Makati court informing it of the negotiations.

"That is an outright lie. The joint manifestation was never filed because they never filed it. They never wanted it filed," Piccio said.



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GOING TO THE DOGS? With impeachment hearings stalled in the Lower House, critics of President Macapagal-Arroyo resort to using dogs to dramatize their call for her removal. LYN RILLON

Anti-GMA groups try 'doggone' protest

From page A1

protests to oust Ms Arroyo over allegations she stole the 2004 elections, their canine counterparts yesterday made their own bowwows.

About 10 mongrels wearing anti-Arroyo ribbons and carrying signs saying "Dog: Dapat Oust GMA" pranced along with their handlers at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, for what might be called a "doggone protest."

Organizers from Anakpawis and other members of Bantay Impeachment said they chose to use dogs in their campaign because they were the Filipinos' "*bantay* (guard)" who protect homes from burglars, in the same way the people ought to guard against thieves in politics.

The dogs appeared excited by the fuss over them, barking and snapping, as photographers clicked away. They were all mixed breeds, or mongrels, but some joked the mutts were "Japanese peach," a mixture of Japanese spitz and "impeach."

One of them was 4-year-old (28 in dog years) Satchmo, after the nickname of American jazz musician Louis Armstrong.

It was the second mobilization for the brown-and-white bundle-of-energy, who also attended the pre-State of the Nation concert rally also at UP this year, said Jo Abaya of the Committee for the Defense of Lawyers.

Satchmo had shown his "distrust" of Ms Arroyo as early as the campaign season last year, said Abaya. "Whenever the GMA campaigners were marching, he always barked."

If Satchmo and Abaya were by themselves, another canine brought along her entire family.

Paula, 5, was joined by her mate Wesley, 3, their five pups—and Jim Miranda of Anakpawis.

The proud owner said the white-furred Paula was a veteran of rallies, having attended at least seven demonstrations at the Mabuhay Rotonda and Mendiola, among other venues.

Paula has become used to big crowds, as well as people who like to pet her shaggy fur, Miranda said.

On the other hand, it was the first time for Wesley, who had only begun to take to strange people recently, he added. The pups, which were only a few weeks old, were handed from one protester to another, looking adorable.

Miranda said it was only right for the animals to join anti-Arroyo rallies as dog food might soon become history when the VAT (expanded value-added tax) comes into force and makes it no longer affordable.

But Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran put another spin to the canine protest.

He said while Ms Arroyo was probably "the cutest and prettiest lapdog of imperialism," there were puppies more discerning than her.

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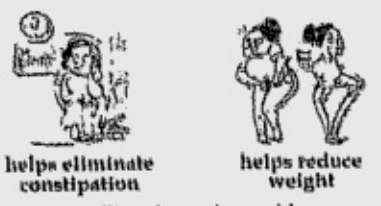
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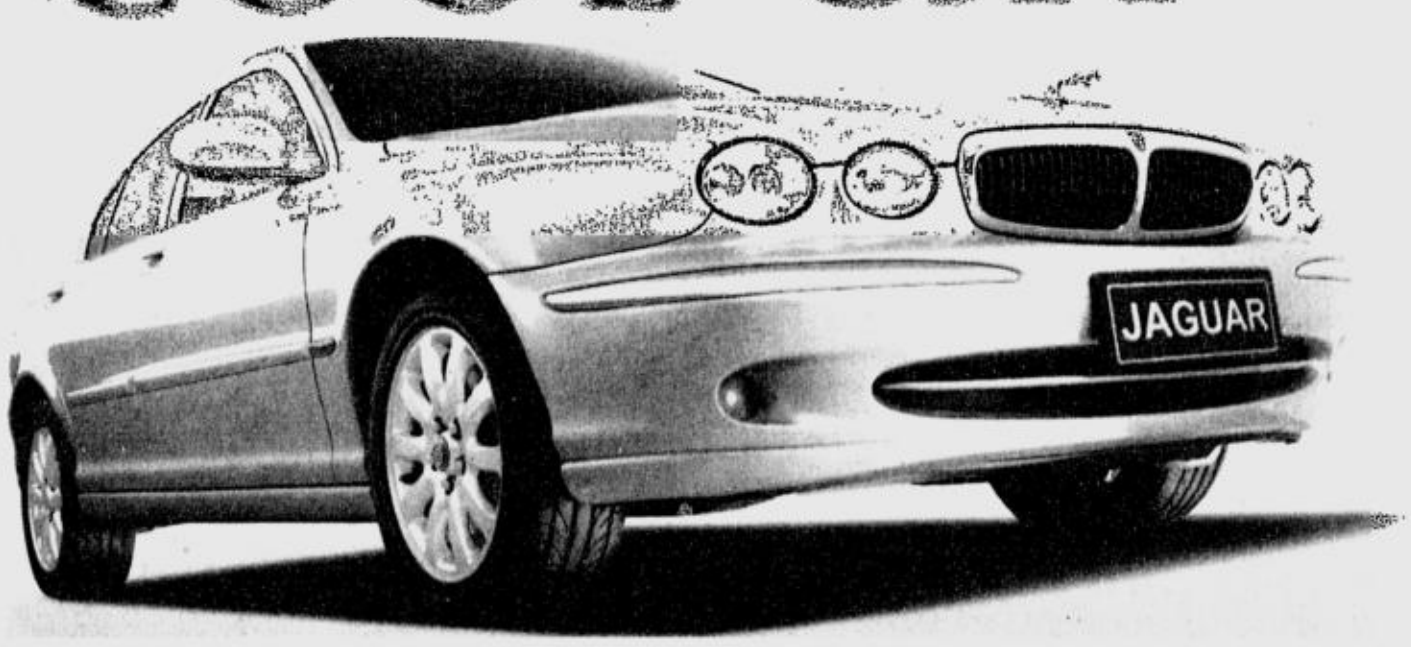

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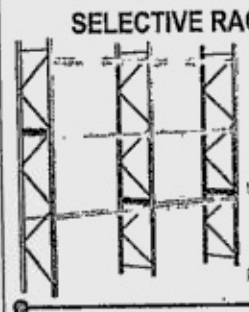

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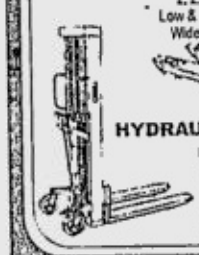

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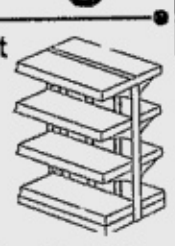

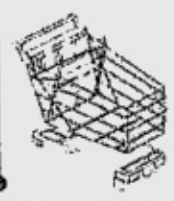

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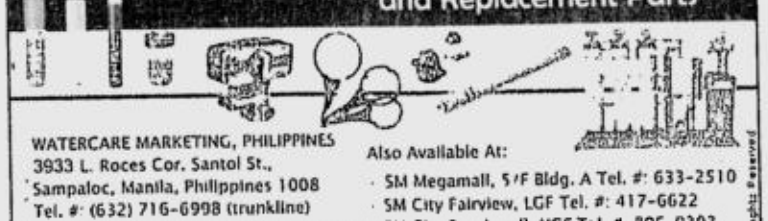

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CFBCI NATIONAL ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST

Theme: "Youth on Patriotism: How Far Would You Go For Your Country?"

CONTEST GUIDELINES

A. The Co[illegible]tion to all Filipino high school students currently enrolled in any public [illegible] recognized private school in the Philippines.
B. Th[illegible] shall be conducted in high school level and each school shall have o[illegible]y.
C. [illegible]ries shall be written in English with a minimum length of nine hundred (900) [illegible] and a maximum length of One Thousand Five Hundred (1,500) words.
D. [illegible]say must be type written or computerized on A4 bond paper (8.27" x11.69"), [illegible] line spacing, 12 point Arial Font. No identifying marks must be written on any of the entries for submission.
E. All entries shall have been declared winner of a school-based competition to determine the school's official entry, duly endorsed by the School Principal as the official entry of the school and certified as the original work of the contestant and that it has not been previously submitted in a similar contest. Participant shall sign the Honor Pledge included in the entry. Failure to do so shall mean forfeiture of the entry.
F. Entries must be accompanied by a duly accomplished entry form. Entry forms are available at DepED Division Offices. Please accomplish five (5) copies and enclosed them in a short brown envelope. All entries must be submitted on or before 15 September 2005 addressed to:

Attention: Mr. Joey G. Pelaez
Executive Director
Center for Students and Co-Curricular Affairs
Rm. 111 Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave.,
Pasig City 1600

G. All submitted entries will undergo screening and preliminary judging by a panel of judges appointed by the CFBCI to determine the ten (10) finalists. The finalists will be notified by telephone, text, mail or e-mail on or before 12 October 2005.
H. The finals be an on-the-spot essay-writing contest to be held during the school break. The venue will be announced later.
I. The guidelines and theme for on-the-spot essay-writing contest will be announced during the contest proper.
J. The ten (10) finalists will be invited to come to Manila together with their teacher-advisers. Transportation and accommodation expenses will be shouldered by the CFBCI.
K. The decision of the panel of judges is final and irrevocable.
L. Deadline for the submission of entries is on 15 September 2005.

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

A. Content.....35%
This covers the accuracy of the data cited, relevance of the message and how the piece focuses on the theme.

B. Organization.....30%
This covers the coherence of the sentences and paragraphs and the organization of the thoughts presented by the piece.

C. Style.....20%
This includes the originality, creativity of the author and the tone of the language used throughout the piece.

D. Mechanics.....15%
This covers the accuracy of the spelling, capitalization, punctuation marks, sentence construction and grammar. It also includes strict compliance with the contest rules and guidelines.

PRIZES

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Third Prize	-Two (2) Winners of PhP20,000.00 PhP20,000.00 for their Respective Schools Certificates (Winners, Coaches & School Principals) Trophies
Consolation Prize	-PhP5,000.00 each for the Non-Winning Finalists and for their Respective Schools Certificates (Participants, Coaches & School Principals)

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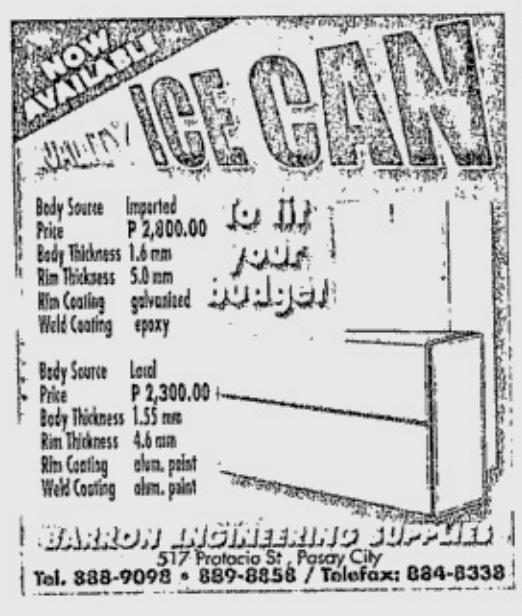

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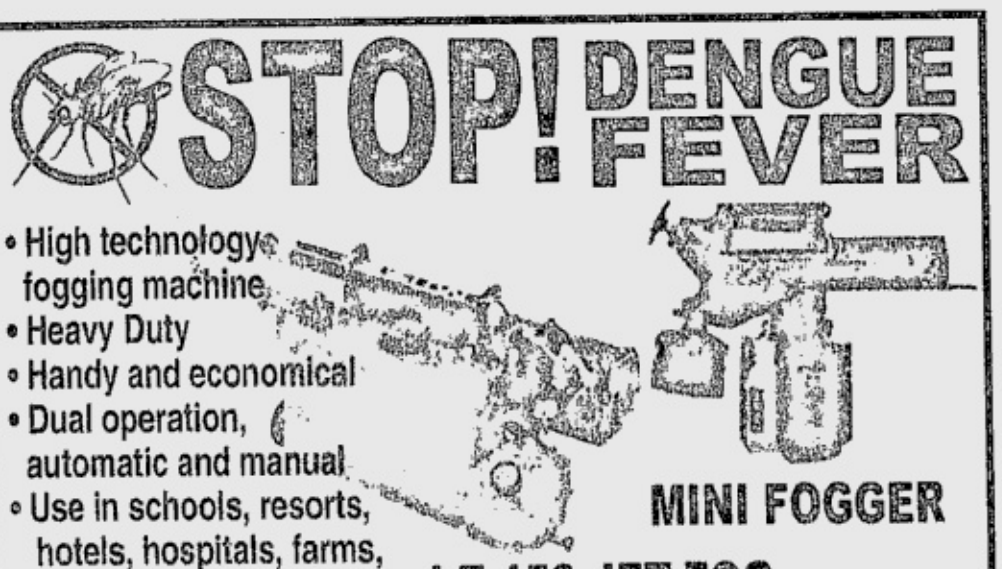

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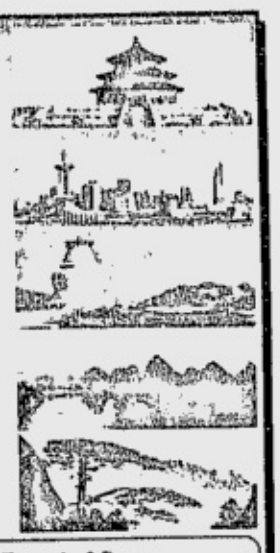

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Suicide blast hurts 20 in Israel

BEERSHEBA, Israel—A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up in southern Israel on Sunday, wounding more than 20 people, in the first such attack since the eviction of Jewish settlers from Gaza and the northern West Bank.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast in Beersheba, three days after troops killed five Palestinians in a raid on a militant hideout in the West Bank city of Tulkarm, drawing a vow of revenge from the Islamic Jihad group.

The explosion, at the entrance to Beersheba's central bus station, followed a call by US President George W. Bush for the Palestinians to respond to last week's pullout from occupied Gaza by showing "they will fight terrorism."

But Bush, who hopes the Gaza withdrawal will help revive a US-backed peace "road map" envisaging a viable Palestinian state alongside a secure Israel, stopped short of demanding President Mahmoud Abbas dismantle militant groups.

Minutes before the explosion, Israel Radio broadcast a pledge by Abbas to maintain indefinitely a ceasefire he declared along with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in February.

"According to the agreement, the truce is continuing and it's not linked to a time ... and everyone knows that," Abbas told the radio.

Palestinian militant factions have said a "period of calm"

they announced in March at Abbas's urging will expire at year's end. They have vowed to continue armed resistance following a Gaza pullout they claimed as a victory.

Police said the bomber tried to board a bus at the start of the Israeli work week but drew the driver's suspicion and blew himself up as security guards gave chase.

"The driver signaled two security guards to go to him," Uri Barlev, the police chief for southern Israel, told Army Radio.

"These two security guards ultimately prevented an attack that could have been a lot worse."

A police spokesperson said at least 21 people were wounded in the blast, the two security guards seriously.

Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erekat condemned the bombing.

"We believe maximum effort must be exerted by both sides to maintain the truce because it's in everybody's interest," he said. "What's needed today is not more violence but more peace."

Israeli Vice Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told reporters the attack "proves again the Palestinian authority has to do a lot more in order to stop the terrorists, and I promise you that we'll continue to fight against them everywhere."

A suicide bomber last struck on July 12, killing five people outside a shopping mall in the coastal city of Netanya.

Beersheba was last hit by bombings a year ago, when explosions tore through two commuter buses, killing 16 people. *Reuters*

Europe picks up the pieces as floodwaters recede

GENEVA—Floodwaters were receding in Europe Saturday, following a week-long crisis which left at least 70 people dead across the center and east of the continent.

Meanwhile, across the continent in parched Portugal, six fires burned out of control in the northern and central regions of the country suffering its worst drought in 60 years.

In Romania, hardest hit from the floods with a death toll of 33, authorities said the torrential rain which fueled the flooding should tail off by the end of the weekend, with fine weather expected to return by Monday.

Water levels were also dropping in Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Bulgaria and Poland.

In Romania's central Harghita region, authorities Saturday continued the search for two people who were still missing, but the chances of finding them were said to be slim.

Health officials there on Friday said there was a risk of disease, with sewers wrecked by flooding and hundreds of animal carcasses strewn across the waterlogged streets of the region's villages.

In Switzerland, inhabitants of communities evacuated in the face of floods and landslides were slowly returning home.

In the Oberland region near the capital Bern, around a thousand residents went back to the villages they left behind as floodwaters tumbled from the Alps on Monday and Tuesday.

In Bern itself, authorities said that 340 people who were forced to leave a low lying district when the Aare river burst its banks would be able to go home over the weekend.

In the nearby lakeside town of Thun, the water level was dropping by around 20 cm a day and the flood alert was expected to be called off by Monday, officials said.

Across the country's flooded areas, rescue workers continued to clear tree trunks and other debris which had clogged water courses, threatening bridges, locks and dams.

Further east, however, some residents were still homeless.

In the village of Schattdorf, in the Uri region, authorities were looking for temporary housing for around 70 people.

Although floodwaters had subsided, up to 40 homes in the village were still uninhabitable.

Six people were killed in Switzerland during the flooding, with one victim's body discovered in a lake in neighboring Germany after being washed more than a hundred kilometers down a river.

In Bavaria, in southern Germany, where one person died, police said water levels were falling in the Danube river valley. But many fields remained flooded.

Passau, near the border with the Austria, was no longer threatened by the Danube. The river level had fallen to 8.5 m—two less than during a previous flood crisis in 2002.

But the water level remained high in Erding, on the Isar river which feeds into the Danube, which was protected by sandbags.

In Austria, only the Alpine community of Gargellen in the western Vorarlberg region was still cut off, with the military continuing to ferry supplies by helicopter.

Rescue workers there said they also had plans in place to evacuate 500 people, half of them tourists. *AFP*

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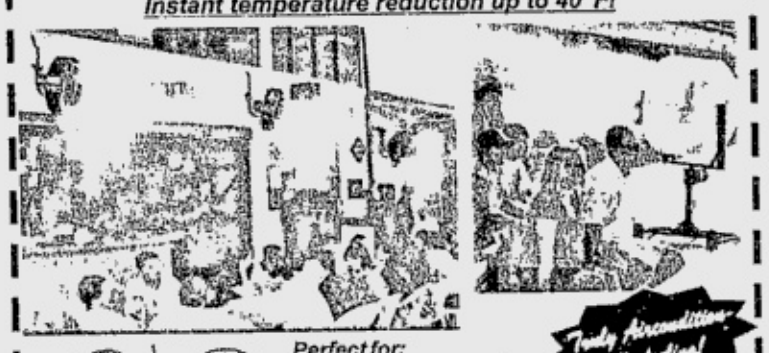

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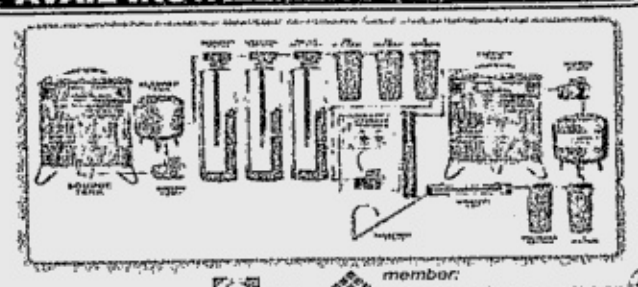

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Burma junta dismisses coup rumors, says chief in charge

RANGOON—Burma's leader Senior Gen. Than Shwe remains in good health and in charge of the country, Information Minister Kyaw Hsan said Sunday, denying rumors to the contrary that have circulated this week.

"Senior Gen. Than Shwe's health is good and he continues to handle his responsibilities," said Kyaw Hsan.

"These are concerted efforts by dissidents, with the manipulation of foreign powers, to try to destabilize the nation by coming up with all these fabrications," he told a press conference.

"Everything is normal here," he added. "Myanmar is being ruled under a collective leadership with Senior Gen. Than Shwe at the head."

Rumors of a coup within the military regime emerged on Tuesday, apparently triggered by an interview on the BBC's Burmese-language radio that said the junta's number-two, Gen. Maung Aye, had overthrown Than Shwe.

Later in the week, stories began circulating that 73-year-old Than Shwe, who has a history of ill-health, had been flown to Singapore for medical treatment.

"He has not traveled anywhere, and right now he is at the war office (military headquarters), where he goes every day to do his duty," Kyaw San said.

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra had on Thursday discounted the rumors, and diplomats in the capital Rangoon said they were extremely sceptical that there had been any change in the leadership.

The speculation died down by the end of the week, but not before causing the kyat currency to weaken and sending the price of gold higher as citizens reacted to the uncertainty.

Access to information is tightly controlled in Myanmar, the former Burma, and citizens rely on foreign radio broadcasts as well as an active rumor mill to find out what is going on in their own country.

Obviously stung by the affair, the notoriously secretive regime organized Sunday's rare press conference, where Kyaw Hsan also announced that three government officials had been appointed to handle such queries in future.

Representatives at the foreign ministry, the information ministry and the home ministry were named as official media liaisons.

"These three people will be given the responsibility to answer any questions by anybody who is interested to know the truth," Kyaw Hsan said.

The speed with which the rumors spread is an indication of how on edge Burma's population remains after a sweeping purge last October that removed the junta's number-three, Prime Minister Kyin Nyunt.

Since then the regime has been conducting an ongoing campaign to reorganize the hierarchy and promote its staunchest loyalists, with two sets of reshuffles in recent months involving powerful military leaders and government ministers.

Khin Nyunt, seen by some observers as a somewhat more outward-looking figure in the hawkish regime, received a 44-year suspended sentence last month after being convicted of bribery and corruption.

Diplomats and political observers in Rangoon said the rumors that Gen. Maung Aye and his allies had taken over could also have been fueled by activity surrounding the birth of his grandchild this week.

They said Than Shwe went with Maung Aye to visit the military hospital shortly before the scheduled caesarean section in what was supposed to have been a public show of solidarity after the recent shake-ups. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Sharon son in sleaze mess

JERUSALEM—A district tribunal indicted Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's son Omri Sunday in connection with a corruption probe into the funding of his father's leadership campaign, judicial sources said. Omri, who is an MP for his father's right-wing Likud party, was charged by the tribunal in Tel Aviv with providing false testimony and falsifying documents in connection with the 1999 campaign for the Likud leadership. Prosecutors have said that a company controlled by Omri, named Annex Research, took contributions from companies in Israel and abroad worth some $1.3 million, which were all illegally ploughed into his father's campaign. The prime minister himself has always insisted that he had no knowledge of the financing of his campaign, saying it was run exclusively by his son. *AFP*

Category 4 Katrina

MIAMI—Thousands of people fled New Orleans and other low-lying parts of Louisiana early Sunday as Hurricane Katrina gained strength again as it churned toward the US Gulf of Mexico coast. Katrina has already been blamed for seven deaths after it slammed ashore late Thursday in southern Florida, flooding entire neighborhoods, uprooting trees, sending a highway overpass crashing down and leaving more than a million people without electricity. The National Hurricane Center said that a US Air Force plane flying over the eye of the hurricane detected maximum sustained winds reaching 233 km per hour, which makes Katrina a category four storm. The designation brings Katrina close to killer status as the Saffir-Simpson scale used to measure them has only five grades. *AFP*

Improved English rewarded

TAIPEI—The Taiwanese government is offering incentives to encourage civil servants to improve their English as part of efforts to enhance the island's competitive edge, it was reported Sunday. The Cabinet-level Central Personnel Administration announced Saturday that from Sept. 1, more than 230,000 civil servants would get extra performance credits if they pass different levels of the General English Proficiency Test or seven other English tests. *AFP*

Nigerian veep's home in US

WASHINGTON—US federal agents have searched the US home of Nigerian Vice President Atiku Abubakar as part of an international anti-corruption probe, officials disclosed late Saturday. State Department spokesperso Joanne Moore said the search of the house located in an upscale Maryland suburb of the US capital took place on Aug. 3, but declined to provide details. But a source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the search was part of a Federal Bureau of Investigation probe of a proposed telecommunications deal that allegedly involves Nigeria as well as US Congressman William Jefferson of Louisiana. *AFP*

Floating runway

TOKYO—Japan and the United States are considering building a floating runway off southwestern Japan to ease noise pollution caused by night practice landings of US military planes, a report said Sunday. *AFP*

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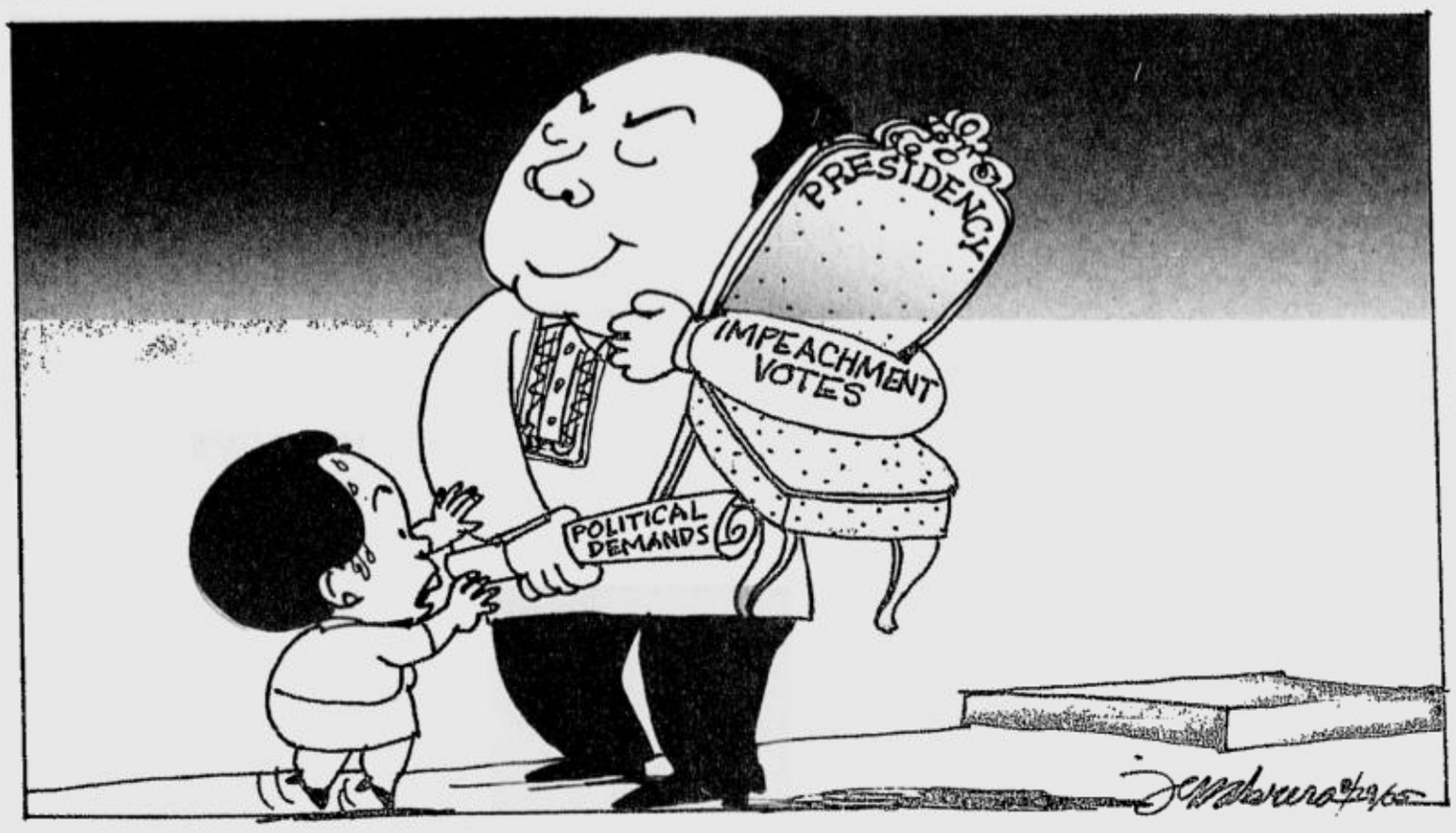

Beyond numbers

BY THE POLITICAL opposition's own account, today is make-or-break day for the impeachment initiative against the President. In truth, opposition leaders have at least until tomorrow to muster the 79 signatures they need, before the House Committee on Justice reconvenes to conduct what may well be the make-or-break vote. And they have 10 session days to gather 79 votes in the plenary to override an unfavorable committee decision. But there is no question that in the impeachment numbers-game, they are nearer break than make.

EDITORIAL

If one of the lawyers assisting the opposition told it straight in a cable news interview last Friday, the pro-impeachment camp started to focus on the pursuit of the necessary signatures only late in the day.

"Without the 79, it's over, and that's why in fact, I have allowed the congressmen to take the lead in this initiative. I have asked the legal to take a back seat because what we are witnessing now is a political play more than a legal play," lawyer Harry Roque told ANC's "Dateline Philippines."

Politics, of course, is addition, and the critical truth is that the opposition is behind in the fateful numbers game.

But is this all there is to the crisis of legitimacy enveloping the President? Does the mystery of the controversial and revelatory Hello Garci tapes clear up—is it explained away—with a party-line vote in Congress? Do the questions about the President's possible abuse of government resources to cover up alleged election fraud simply go unanswered, because fewer than one-third of all congressmen found any of the impeachment complaints deserving of support?

We find it hard to believe that a premature up-and-down vote in the justice committee is or can be in the country's best interests.

For one thing, it will deepen popular cynicism about the role of national institutions in public life. For another, it will not resolve the crisis confronting the President. On the contrary, a precipitate vote that leads to the junking of the impeachment complaints will only deepen the crisis. President Macapagal-Arroyo will end up presiding over the United Nations Security Council next week with the hounds of legitimacy baying more loudly, and snapping more aggressively at her heels.

A vote based merely on political arithmetic will also cheapen the language of the Constitution itself, and of the jurisprudence on impeachment that has arisen over the years. Surely, it is a matter of significance that, while the responsibility for the impeachment process is borne by the most political branch of government, the Constitution is careful to attach legal and judicial requisites. Impeachable offenses are delimited; verification and sufficiency in form and substance are required, and properly promulgated impeachment rules called for; the "sole power" to "try and decide" is vested in the Senate, with the presence of the head of the judicial branch of government mandated when it is the President "on trial." Not least, the outcome of the Senate trial itself is phrased in terms of acquittal or conviction.

"(Also, the innovative provisions on the Ombudsman, the chief government lawyer in anti-graft cases, are also to be found in the same Article in the Constitution.)

What this all means is that, while remaining a primarily political process, impeachment must meet fundamental standards of reason and of law and justice. How, one may ask, can that be possible in an intensely partisan, almost poisoned atmosphere? Through a political compromise that is based on reason and the law. For instance: The committee can adopt the formula first put forward by administration Rep. Constantino Jaraula of Cagayan de Oro City. Allow the original impeachment complaint, which alleges betrayal of public trust, to be amended by the third complaint, but only by those parts that allege the same impeachable offense.

That compromise, or others like it, will allow the two sides to meet halfway. It will strengthen the impeachment case and thus add much-needed credibility to the process; at the same time, it will penalize the opposition for using the process as a last, rather than the first, resort. Not least, it will be a political arrangement based on reason and justice, acceptable to men and women of good will.

Beyond numbers is reason. Inside reason is conscience.

MMDA needs PNP help

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

AS soon as it was unveiled last Wednesday, the 7-foot statue of Marcelo H. del Pilar in Plaridel Park in Malate became the subject of much discussion. The handiwork of sculptor Julie Lluch, the statue depicts a standing Del Pilar (pen name: Plaridel) holding with his left hand a copy of La Solidaridad, while pointing toward the sky with his right hand.

What is he pointing at? What is the meaning of that index finger? The statue has triggered many speculations, both serious and funny.

Sculptor Lluch said Plaridel "is pointing a finger at the abuses of the Spanish government, explaining (its) evils... the ills of society during the time of the friars."

Not only the abuses of the Spanish colonial government but also the abuses of our own society and government and other colonial powers, in modern times, said some observers.

It symbolizes a warning to our leaders, just like a finger that a father wags at his naughty child, said others.

Others have these interpretations: He is pointing an accusing finger at our leaders; telling them that they are to blame for the mess we are in now.

He is pointing to God in Heaven, warning our leaders that God can see what they are doing.

He is pointing to the sky to remind fellow journalists that the possibilities for doing good are limitless.

He is warning the powerful and abusive of their mortality, as if saying "*Isang bala ka lang*!"

One journalist even said that Plaridel is flashing the signature campaign sign—the index finger—of Fernando Poe Jr., the opposition's popular presidential candidate who, followers (naturally) insist, was the one really elected president in the 2004 elections.

Plaridel is the idol of Filipino journalists because he never wavered in his fight against the Spanish colonizers, a fight he carried out through his writings in La Solidaridad, the opposition newspaper he founded and edited. Besides, journalists identify with him because, like them, Plaridel lived in penury, was persecuted but never gave up.

With the statue in place, Samahang Plaridel, the association of journalists that sponsored—together with Manila Mayor Lito Atienza—the monument, plans to have a corner at the park declared officially and legally as the Philippine "Hyde Park," where anybody can freely criticize the government and its officials without fear. It will be our monument to freedom of expression.

By the way, Samahang Plaridel's clubhouse and Front Page piano bar, the new watering hole of journalists, is aptly located in Ermita. It is near the corner of the street named after Marcelo H. del Pilar and the street named after Teodoro M. Kalaw, another journalist during the American colonial regime who penned the famous editorial "Aves de Rapina" (Birds of Prey, referring to the Americans). The Front Page is open to the public.

* * *

We cannot find a better chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority than Bayani Fernando. All his predecessors in the MMDA and Metro Manila Commission were namby-pamby who allowed anarchy to reign on the streets and sidewalks of Metro Manila. It is only Fernando who has tried and is still trying to enforce the laws that could restore order. Nobody has been able to clear the sidewalks and put a little order on the streets as much as he did.

It is the sidewalk vendors and drivers who are opposing Fernando, naturally, because they are being forced to obey the law and cannot continue with their anarchic ways. And they have the sympathy of some of the mayors because they are voters. But the mayors, singly or all together, cannot better Fernando's performance. President Macapagal-Arroyo did right in declaring her support for her MMDA chair.

I have a few suggestions, however, that I hope will help improve the traffic situation in Metro Manila. One: The MMDA should not spurn the help offered by PNP Director General Arturo Lumibao to enforce traffic rules.

The MMDA wants exclusive jurisdiction over the main streets of the metropolis, allegedly because of *tong* collection. But are MMDA officials so naïve as not to suspect that many of their traffic enforcers are collecting *tong*? Even if they are not, drivers are not intimidated by the MMDA enforcers because most of them don't really know the traffic rules they are supposed to enforce. In fact, they are not respected because they are former garbage collectors.

The enforcers know their shortcomings and therefore suffer from a collective inferiority complex. So they avoid accosting and confronting erring drivers. They are content with standing in the middle of the street and waving their arms at vehicles so they can be seen by their superiors. Even if all hell is breaking loose at a corner because of unruly drivers, an MMDA enforcer will not leave his spot to make the traffic flow. He has no desire at all to make drivers and pedestrians obey traffic rules. To him, it is just a job. As soon as his superior goes away, he disappears—where to is a big mystery.

In fact, realizing the shortcomings and feelings of inferiority of their enforcers, the MMDA management has come to their rescue by limiting contact between them and the drivers. The vehicles of erring drivers are simply photographed, copies of which are sent to the owners with instructions to pay the fine at the nearest bank.

While this lightens the work load of the MMDA and increases its collection from fines, it does not give any warning to other drivers not to break traffic rules. They see this vehicle blatantly violating traffic rules and nothing happens to the driver, not knowing that a picture has been taken of the violation and that retribution will come later. All they see is that a motorist has gotten away with a violation, and they think, so can they.

Footnote to lunacy

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I WANTED to write about it last week, but thought there were more important things to talk about, like Rene Jarque's life and thoughts. Rene passed away the other Friday at 40, but not before helping epically to make this world better for us.

What I wanted to talk about was Mike "Tiyak 'Yon" Velarde's proposal for power-sharing between GMA and Erap. Well, there is one thing Velarde and GMA have in common, which is that they do not just talk to God, God talks to them. Or so they claim. The difference, Margie Holmes has pointed out some time ago: You talk to God, you're praying. God talks to you, you need help.

The last time God spoke to GMA was to tell her not to vacate the position she stole from FPJ in particular and the people in general. That was the implication of her statement that she was put in office by God himself/herself, and nothing, not even the fact of having been caught cheating, justified prying her loose from it. That was shortly after she claimed the Pope, too, spoke to her to enjoin her to bestir herself, after everyone else had done so, to pry loose the duly elected Erap from office. By then the Pope was dead.

What can I say? This one doth hear voices in her head.

As to Velarde, I don't know why God keeps ordering him to wear brightly colored plaid coat-and-ties. It's enough to make you convert to another faith, one possessed of a God that has better sartorial taste, if not become an atheist altogether.

But frankly, I wouldn't have minded seeing GMA, Erap and Imelda on stage, linking arms, with Jose de Venecia, Fidel Ramos, Mike Defensor, Prospero Pichay and Raul Gonzalez behind them cheering them on. And, of course, Mike Velarde raising his hands over their heads, invoking God to bless their alliance. I don't know that Divine Temperance would not have been unduly taxed, enough to send a thunderbolt to the Luneta, thus delivering the country from the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah in one fell swoop. The last time Erap decided to bring God into the fray, which was by way of a prayer rally in December 2000, he lasted only less than a month. The (Wo)man upstairs has a way of answering prayers.

But having all of them on one stage, as Velarde asked for his birthday gift, would have been the perfect, if unwitting, commentary on GMA's State of the Nation Address, particularly the part where she says: "Our political system has now become a hindrance to national progress. (It has) degenerated to an extent that it has become difficult for anyone to make any headway yet keep his hands clean." Had they all been there, you'd know how profoundly accurate that statement is: Truly our political system has become a hindrance to national progress, truly it has degenerated to a point where no one can keep his hands clean. Even God is being invited to share in the loot.

I myself am convinced God made GMA a modern-day Cassandra with a twist. Cassandra was cursed to prophesy the dire fate that awaited other people but not to be believed by them. GMA is cursed to prophesy the dire fate she holds in store for the nation but not to be believed by her. Her description of the kind of political system we now have with her at the helm is matched only by her divination some years ago of the kind of nation we would have with her at the helm: "Since I'm among the principal figures in the divisive national events for the last two or three years, if I were to run, my political efforts can only result in never-ending divisiveness." We've not had a single day of peace since GMA took over Erap.

GMA, Erap and Imelda sharing a single stage would have given us a picture of the three figures representing the worst in Philippine politics, that were ousted by People Power. I myself have no doubt the same fate awaits GMA. It will happen sooner or later, though one can only wish for the sake of the children who stand to inherit a tattered land because of our foot-dragging, sooner rather than later.

Defensor says the virtue of Velarde's proposal for power sharing is that GMA will end her term next year. I don't know how many people he got to convince with that apparent piece of good news. I've always compared GMA to Marcos in terms of their mind-boggling ambition and capacity to lie, but I don't know now if I've been insulting Marcos rather than GMA all this time.

Marcos, of course, lied through his teeth, but he was a little careful not to be caught. If I recall right, one of the reasons for the First Quarter Storm of 1970 was that Edgar Jopson demanded from Marcos in a meeting in Malacañang that he vow he would not run again in whatever capacity after his second term expired. Marcos refused, demanding to know why he should accede to the demands of "a grocer's son." Jopson and company walked out and, before long, the activists laid siege to Mendiola Bridge.

It wasn't that Marcos didn't want to lie, it was that he feared the consequences of being caught lying. GMA doesn't fear it at all. In fact, she doesn't fear—or no longer does—the consequences of being caught cheating. Which raises the chilling thought of what else she will not fear later on. Her attitude has become: So I lied, so I cheated, what do you want to do about it? What can you do about it?

GMA will step down next year? Only Velarde will think to say, "*Tiyak 'yon.*"

* * *

Erratum: Someone brought it to my attention. One of the last lines in Rene Jarque's letter read: "We must be comrades **blinded** by Duty, Honor, Country." A horrible mistake. Rene's original read, "binded," which I overlooked. My Word auto-correct must have turned "binded" into "blinded." Rene obviously meant "bound." The line should have read: "We must be comrades bound by Duty, Honor, Country." My apologies to everyone.

Too late the hero

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

I HAVE not been an avid fan of the hearings on impeachment, but friends do entertain me with highlights. One such highlight is the debate among members of the pro-impeachment group on when to sign up in support of impeachment. Those in the up-front group have already signed and they are inching toward the magic 79. Another group, I understand, plans to show their hand only during the roll-call vote in plenary.

I tend to agree with those who say that, if the number 79 is not reached before the plenary vote, their cause will have been lost. The history of past impeachments shows that there is little interest in coming to the plenary session when the vote has been lost in the Committee. Absences then abound. Therefore, whatever noble reason the second group might have, they may be headed toward a case of "too late the hero."

Another update I got is that there's a claim that my column last Monday contradicted what I said when I appeared as *amicus curiae* during the hearing of the Davide impeachment. At that time I said, and the Court agreed, that an impeachment proceeding is deemed initiated when a complaint has been filed and transmitted to the Committee on Justice and that, therefore, another complaint after that would violate the one-year ban.

Indeed, that is what I said. But let us look at the context of that statement. There was a first complaint. This first complaint was held to be sufficient in form on Oct. 13, 2003, but it was dismissed for insufficiency of substance on Oct. 22, 2003; it was then awaiting referral to the plenary. The second complaint, however, was filed on Oct. 23, 2003, or the day after the first had been dismissed for insufficiency of substance. In other words, the first "proceeding" was already well on the way when the second complaint came. Clearly, therefore, the second complaint could not ride on the first proceeding because the first proceeding had already gone too far. *Malayo na ang tren.* Thus, the second complaint would have required a new and second prohibited proceeding. So, indeed, the Court held.

The situation in the current controversy is different. On different days, the Lozano complaint, the "amended complaint" and the Lopez complaint were filed. The substance of all three complaints came under the umbrella of "betrayal of public trust." As I indicated last Monday, the phrase betrayal of public trust was meant by the Constitutional Commission to be a catch-all phrase that could encompass many elements. All three were referred to the Justice Committee on the same day. Since they all involved betrayal of public trust, they could be combined as one to be tackled in the same proceeding. Thus, only one proceeding was initiated when the three were referred to the Committee.

I was also told of the warm eloquence displayed in attacking my use of the phrase "bill of particulars." If I had not used that phrase but had simply said that the amended complaint was nothing more than a specification of "betrayal of public trust," would eloquence also have been vented on me? Of course, because specifics were the dreaded monster!

I grant that the phrase "bill of particulars" is normally used only in civil or administrative cases. A respondent in a civil or administrative case asks for a "bill of particulars" or specifics in order to be able to prepare a proper response to a complaint. A defendant in a criminal case, of course, would not ask for a bill of particulars. He would rather ask for dismissal on the ground of defective information. An impeachment case, however, cannot easily be categorized as civil, criminal, or administrative. It is *sui generis*. But what is to prevent people involved in an impeachment debate from borrowing the phrase "bill of particulars" to communicate what they mean? It means details, specifics, chapter and verse, and other synonyms which can be found in Roget's Thesaurus. But then, as I said, this is precisely what the defenders of the President dread. It is not the phrase "bill of particulars" they are objecting to but the complaint's content.

Again, I must say that this is not at all surprising. Impeachment is a political process. For that reason the responsibility for it has not been given to a court characterized by cold neutrality but to a political body. A political body can be intensely partisan. This fact explains 95 percent of what has been happening in the Committee hearings.

Along every step in an impeachment process, a president and his or her men get to work. The president's power of persuasion is not inconsiderable. The essence of the president's persuasive task is to convince the object of his or her courtship that what he or she wants is what they too should choose for their own sake. Political animals always consider what is good for their own sake. I am, therefore, not surprised that the opposition is waging an uphill battle.

The presence of an impeachment process in our and in the American Constitution is symbolic of the commitment to the rule of law. It is the consensus of most historians that the attempted impeachment of Richard Nixon was a shining moment in the nation's history. In the final analysis, the process that forced Nixon to resign from the presidency was a bi-partisan effort. (And Nixon could obtain pardon because, under the American system, pardon can be given before conviction. Not so in our system!)

Unfortunately, impeachment as a symbol of the rule of law does not always manage to reflect what it symbolizes. What is going on now in the justice committee definitely does not.

(P.S. Is the surprise declaration of a Monday holiday a ploy to prevent the collection of more signatures in a Monday session?)

Are they serious?

COMMENTARY

Rigoberto D. Tiglao

ARE the opposition congressmen really serious in their move to include the amended complaint as part of an impeachment trial against the President? Only if they think the Senate will be willing to be tied down for a year—even years—of impeachment trial.

The amended complaint constitutes seven different charges against the President. Of course, Marcos lawyer Oliver Lozano's 13 charges will have to be included as well.

What will happen in the trial?

For starters, take one of the amended complaint's charges: alleged "human rights violations," obviously a complaint designed to get the Left on board the impeachment. (Fifteen out of the 47 impeachment signatories are party-list representatives, 10 from the Left.) The complaint claims that the President "acquiesced in and provided impunity to the killing of political dissenters or infringed their freedoms of expression and assembly."

The complaints' specifics? Totally based on a report of Karapatan, an NGO: "411 assassinations, summary executions and (cases of) indiscriminate firing, 130 victims of involuntary disappearance, 245 tortured, and 1,563 illegally arrested." That's a total of 2,349 people, all of them alleged victims of human rights violations.

The accused here is not only President Macapagal-Arroyo, but the Armed Forces of the Philippines which, the complaint alleges, was the main perpetrator of these crimes.

How will the Senate deliberate this charge? Investigate, of course, every single one of these incidents. Can you imagine the number of witnesses and documents necessary to prove each and every one of these 2,349 instances of human rights violations? I've seen a PNP report on the Hacienda Luisita incident. It contains the affidavits of 43 policemen and laborers.

Assume that it would take the Senate one day to evaluate each case. That would take them 2,349 days, or six years. OK, there could be a proposal to take just a sample of, say, just 10 cases. But could the Left and the President's lawyers come to an agreement as to which cases to include in the sample? Would the Left give up should, after the 1,000th case, no human rights violation be established?

Another charge in the amended complaint: The President did not implement Piatco's Naia III contract. It took the Supreme Court a year and a half to study and decide that the Piatco contract with the government was anomalous. It took roughly a year for the Office of the President to go through the roomful of documents to get to the bottom of the case. Would all the top men of the transport and communications departments under three administrations be summoned as witnesses? Would the Senate call to the witness stand Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada, since the former first approved it and the latter amended it?

Another charge in the amended complaint: The President approved the North Rail project, even though it was overpriced and the interest rate on the Chinese loan for the project was high. This would require going through a procedure similar to the one used in connection with the Piatco contract—and that would include studying or reviewing the voluminous documents pertinent to the case.

Who would be the witnesses here? House Speaker Jose de Venecia, who convinced the Chinese government to finance it? The governor of the Export-Import Bank of China, who signed the loan agreement? Chinese President Hu Jintao, who witnessed the signing ceremonies? And the Chinese ambassador to Manila, who has publicly stated that the contract is "above-board, we have nothing to hide"?

Another charge which could have an interesting twist: The President used the Road Users' Tax projects to promote her candidacy. Would all the congressmen—including those in the opposition—who were partners in road maintenance projects be called to the witness stand? How about the thousands who were employed in these projects?

We'll be seeing of, course, a replay of the hearings on the *jueteng* and wiretap controversies, which lasted nearly four months (two months for Sen. Manuel Villar's committee and two months for the congressional committee). No, not just a replay, but many, many more episodes.

Contrast the shotgun, scatty approach of this impeachment move to the focused, reasonable charges in other impeachment cases. The one against Nixon involved not the Watergate break-in, but only the specific instances when the US president asked officials to cover up its links with the White House. The case against Clinton involved not his alleged sexual affair with Monica Lewinsky but perjury (on Aug. 17, 1998 before a federal grand jury) and obstruction of justice (six specific instances). The case against Estrada involved the charges of getting jueteng money and part of the tobacco excise tax proceeds through Chavit Singson.

Read the charges in the amended complaint, and visualize how they will be deliberated by the Senate—then, Fr. Joaquin Bernas' theory that there is only one impeachment proceeding with an extended bill of particulars isn't convincing. There will be entirely new proceedings—entirely different sets of documents, entirely different groups of witnesses—for the fraud charges, the Piatco issue, the human rights violations charges, etc.

The Senate isn't exactly just a debating club. To operate, the chamber costs taxpayers about P1.3 billion a year, or P7 million each session day. With the plethora of different charges in the opposition's complaint, the Senate would probably work as an impeachment court—and forget its law-making work—for an entire year or even more.

Through the many, many months of an impeachment trial, live television and radio will day after day be broadcasting—and newspapers will be publishing—the charges against the President again and again. That's exactly what the Gloria Ibagsak crowd wants out of this impeachment move. With this daily—even hour-by-hour barrage (courtesy of cable TV), the anti-GMA forces hope to see the President buckle under pressure, and resign.

That kind of harassment against the President is exactly what the framers of the Constitution feared, and sought to prevent with the constitutional provision mandating that only one impeachment complaint—with substance—may be attended to within a year.

Give the President her day in court, the opposition and NGO types keep repeating. What they really want is to tie her down in court for years.

Well, yes, the opposition is serious in having the amended complaint in the impeachment trial—but for a rather different reason.

Secretary Rigoberto D. Tiglao is the head of the Presidential Management Staff.

Laureates

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

DAW Tee Tee Luce was a housewife in Burma when she provided abandoned street children in her native Rangoon not just with a roof but most importantly, with a home and the heart of a mother. Distressed by the growing incidence of crime, Daw spent a year studying the roots and breeding grounds of Burma's deserted children. In 1928, the Children's Aid and Protection Society she had established (with the help of spirited citizens) had put up the Home for Waifs and Strays. The "Home" lives to this day in Burma, also providing formal and physical education, as well as skills training in useful crafts.

In 1959, Daw was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service, as an outstanding humanitarian with a great compassion for the downcast of society.

Pedro Tamesis Orata, a Filipino, is the father of the barrio high school movement for the rural youth of the Philippines. Born in Pangasinan in 1899, Orata earned his Ph.D. from Ohio State University in 1927. In 1934, he was a professor in his alma mater, where he experimented on establishing a community school for a Native American reservation in South Dakota. That set forth his compelling personal philosophy about education as a universal birthright. In 1941, he returned to the Philippines, only to end up in a Japanese concentration camp.

After the Liberation in 1945, Orata returned to his native Urdaneta where he began pursuing his vision of barrio high schools, a rather unthinkable venture at that time as high school education was available then only in the provincial capital towns of the country. But in no time, Orata had 15 barrio schools. When he was 65 years old, barrio high schools could be found in 43 provinces and six cities. The citation in his 1971 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service singled out Orata's insistence that rural youth equally deserved to be given the opportunities available to those that are open to their urban counterparts.

Orata's vision provided the impetus to the development of an educated Filipino citizenry, even as it gave millions of Filipinos in rural areas hope of a brighter future.

Enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan was a principle assuring citizens of equality and equal protection before the law. But changes in the political landscape "weakened" that principle such that the assault, rape and murder of Pakistani women (who, most often, have no effective recourse to justice) became commonplace. Pakistani woman-lawyer Asma Jahangir changed all that. Jahangir was only 18 years old when her father was arrested by Pakistan's martial law government. Upon finishing her law studies at the age of 28, she organized a law firm that catered mostly to women-clients who found her as their only hope under the most vexing circumstances. As her clientele grew, Jahangir broadened her role in reforming her country's society, but not without paying a severe price for it. In 1984, the military dictatorship of Zia-ul Haq imprisoned her for sedition. Meanwhile, her law firm continued its defense of women by pleading forcefully against laws that discriminated against women. Her free legal aid center published reader-friendly pamphlets and had a team of paralegal assistants that educated women on their legal rights. Her valiant efforts paid off with important victories in the Pakistani Supreme Court. Today, her struggle—for the repeal of unjust laws legitimized by theocracy and lawlessness—continues. In electing Asma Jahangir to receive the 1995 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service, the foundation recognized her struggle for religious tolerance in her country, and with it her fight for equal treatment and protection of Pakistani women before the law.

We are in the annual season of what is considered Asia's Nobel Prize, the Ramon Magsaysay Awards. This Wednesday, Aug. 31—following tradition—the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF) will honor six outstanding Asians from India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Laos, Korea and Thailand, two of them women, with the 2005 Ramon Magsaysay Award for their accomplishments in the fields of emergent leadership, community leadership, public service, government service, journalism, literature and creative communication arts.

Last week, the RMAF concluded its nationwide essay writing contest for high school and college students. In the board of judges for the contests' Mindanao eliminations were two of Mindanao's writers and poet laureates—Christine Godinez Ortega and Anthony Tan. I had the privilege to be in their company for that occasion.

Reading through the entries of the contest only heightened my realization that today what we have is a crisis of heroes. The RMAF deserves credit for initiating this contest, which puts primacy on the values of heroism, selflessness, social compassion and community service for our impressionable young people in high school and college to imbibe. I see this as a hopeful contribution to the task of nation-building.

But we are not only in a crisis of heroes today. We also are in a crisis of saints. What we have are many saints, in fact, of the self-proclaimed variety. Enough of all the finger-pointing! Obviously, in our hierarchy of values, truth enjoys the lowest premium. Too often, we forget that when we point a finger to blame somebody, three other fingers are pointed right at us. Self-righteousness has become a comfort zone, and it is a dangerous attitude.

Few people deserve and will ever deserve to be in the roster of the Magsaysay Award laureates. I think of the day when we no longer need the Ramon Magsaysay Awards, when selflessness and charity reign supreme in the hearts of men and women.

* * *

Comments to monta@cu-cdo.edu.ph

The Speaker's position

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

ON NOV. 10, 2003, Speaker Jose de Venecia rose and delivered a remarkable speech. His apparently extemporaneous remarks were made in response to a parliamentary inquiry made in order to resolve a political crisis. The political crisis was caused by the desire of the House minority to impeach the Chief Justice. Those against the impeachment argued that the constitutional ban on more than one impeachment attempt a year had been violated. The challenge was elevated to the Supreme Court, which upheld the position of the objectors. The House minority insisted that the impeachment should proceed. The nation became alarmed at the prospect of an insistent House transmitting articles of impeachment to the Senate, which might result in the executive department having to use its police power to enforce the Supreme Court ruling.

I believe that De Venecia never received enough credit for the manner in which he resolved that potential constitutional crisis, and the eloquence of his remarks on that November day. He demonstrated genuine leadership, a genuine gift for positively responding to public opinion, and proved his ability to arrive at, and defend, a democratic consensus. The man, both as Jose de Venecia and as Speaker of the House, is yet again reaching—if he hasn't already reached—a defining moment in his political career.

In recent days, the Speaker, observers claim, has been showing signs of great stress and distress. The normally placid, often bubbly Speaker (who can claim the unusual distinction of being the one man in Philippine politics all the professional politicians seem to like; and really, I have yet to encounter a person who has met the Speaker personally, and has gone away not liking the man) has of late been said to be curt, even angry. His public pronouncements, in the words of a colleague, have become increasingly "shrill." It must certainly be unpleasant for a man who has built a career on achieving compromise and consensus to see the country, and his House, so divided.

In the great division among our people that took place in recent months, it was the Speaker who provided the "foot soldiers," so to speak, at the command of former President Ramos when the latter decided to support the President. In truth, what Ramos possessed at the time was an impeccable sense of timing, and a residual prestige. It would depend, however, on the Speaker to hold the line and man the trenches with loyal troops and efficient lieutenants in what has become a political battle of attrition.

The Speaker has, so far, done exactly that, a remarkable feat considering how unpopular the President has always been with his Lakas party. The Lakas members in the House, supported in turn by the Lakas network in local governments, backed the President to achieve parliamentary rule for the House and federalism for the provinces. For a time, it seemed the President would be held hostage by Lakas, supporting parliamentary government and federalism.

In recent weeks, though, the President has increasingly displayed signs of independence, which included dropping hints—such as her statement to Korina Sanchez during an interview—that she has never publicly advocated a unicameral legislature. She has ordered the creation of a Constitutional Consultative Commission to act as a counterweight to the desires and constitutional enthusiasm of the House. In other words, she has turned the situation around to her advantage, and regained what presidents traditionally enjoy over the House: leverage.

In fighting for her political life, the President nailed not hers, but Ramos' and De Venecia's colors to the mast, and proceeded to continue sailing the ship in the direction of enemy fire. Furthermore, she has tied both Ramos and the Speaker to the mast, which means it is they who are getting shot at, while the President continues to command the show from the comfort of her cabin. While Ramos has already done all he could—you can only throw your support behind someone once—the Speaker is still being called upon to marshal the troops in the House, and for what? Whatever their view about the President, the majority of the people want the impeachment process to continue. The Speaker might have been able to justify fighting "creeping impeachment" by "stealthily railroading" the throwing out of the impeachment, but his unpopularity and that of his parliamentary cause would only be worth it if the President did her part by gambling big on achieving constitutional change. She has done the opposite: she has gambled small, and it may be that her real bet is on herself.

This leaves the Speaker without a parliament and without popularity, and heading a party whose grip on the President is beginning to relax (not least because of the President's tacticians, as the recent gambit of her personal, pet party Kampi, and the road user's tax demonstrated). The President has not helped deliver what the Speaker needs: a national consensus on Charter change. Perhaps, the Speaker needs to find other allies; neither he nor his party will necessarily go down with the President if her ship sinks; but they may emerge too shattered and discredited to obtain what they want all along: a parliamentary future for themselves.

In the second week of September, Congress goes on recess for a month. Both the minority and majority need to resolve the question of impeachment before then. Should the Speaker deliver by throwing out impeachment by then? He will reap a whirlwind someone else sowed; and worse, he will never ever be prime minister. At least not until 2010. His best chance to be prime minister is to let the process proceed. That will gain him good will, and the claim to statesmanship.

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Textbooks of mass idiotization now, textbooks of mass malnutrition next

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THIS refers to the report that the Department of Education has inked a partnership with a certain soft drink company in the delivery of textbooks throughout the country. For the past two years, the private sector was tapped by the DepEd to prevent the "ghost deliveries" of books. It is part of an ongoing effort to reform the inefficient and corrupt practices in the department.

But why a soft drink company?

Just two months ago, the DepEd revitalized its school nutrition program by launching the Universal Medical and Dental Check-up in public schools. President Macapagal-Arroyo herself ordered the release of P30 billion for the school-feeding program.

How could the DepEd not see the irony of vowing to make children healthier and at the same time forging a deal with a company not known for making healthy drinks?

Imagine the Lung Center of the Philippines tapping a cigarette manufacturer to deliver wheelchairs for its patients. Or the Philippine Heart Center allowing a *lechon* seller to open a canteen in its building. That is how I appreciate the significance of a soft-drink maker delivering textbooks for our children.

The DepEd has always invoked globalization to justify changes in the school curriculum. It should also recognize the global trend of ridding schools of unhealthy food products. In the US states of Alabama, Arizona and Connecticut, junk foods are banned in schools. California governor and former bodybuilder champion Arnold Schwarzenegger wants school vending machines to sell only juice and cereals.

How can schools effectively teach our kids to avoid eating food with too much sugar content or to patronize healthy native drinks when the big trucks of a soft drink company are happily welcomed in school premises for distributing textbooks?

Educators have pointed out that students learn more from messages that are conveyed through actions and statements sanctioned by school personalities. If you have a soft-drink maker doing a good deed recognized by the school, students may not question the nutrition facts of its products. Students will only remember the company as a tireless champion of education, and not a profit-motivated company responsible for making the drink which cannot make children more healthy and intelligent.

Public schools need money. But we must choose the source of the resources to be used for improving the quality of education. Can't the DepEd be more discerning in choosing its donors?

If a soft drink company is tapped because it has a nationwide organization that can reach out to the grass roots, then why not ask the Church instead? Or the barangay and SK units?

We are a country with a predilection for textbook scandals. Before, we had the textbooks of mass idiotization. With a soft drink company delivering books, we are on our way to having textbooks of mass malnutrition.

—RAYMOND PALATINO,
vice president, Anak ng Bayan,
mongpalatino@gmail.com

Admirable young lawmakers

ALLOW me to express my sincere appreciation of the young members of the opposition in the House of Representatives, who have courageously stood their ground in the fight and and search for truth and justice. In the face of death threats and offers of gold, they have proven they and their principles are not for sale. The battle is tough, but they are gaining ground.

The use of legal technicalities by the defenders of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to hide the truth is a sign of desperation.

To Representatives Francis Escudero, Alan Peter Cayetano, Teofisto Guingona III, Darlene Antonino-Custodio and allies, keep up the good work. Millions of your countrymen salute you and are behind you in prayers. As the biblical saying goes "Just do your best and God will take care of the rest."

—LEO S. DACANAY,
B3, L3 Hollywood Subd.,
Barangay 74, Tacloban City

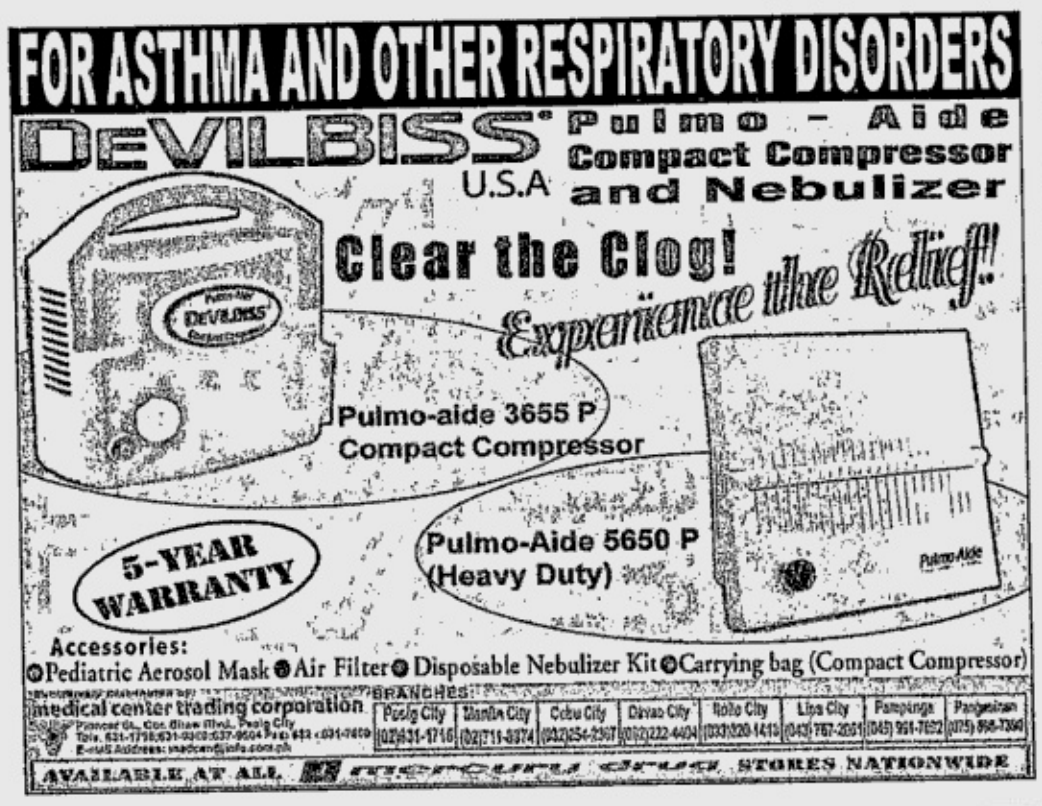
'Act of judicial statesmanship'

I FIRST encountered this highly profound phrase in an opinion of former Senate President Jovito Salonga on the Supreme Court decision that declared President Joseph Estrada as constructively resigned. The decision was met with vigorous opposition from some of the country's legal minds, for being unconstitutional. It became the subject in the columns of leading opinion writers, who took their respective sides—for or against. Salonga came out with an opinion, saying that what the Supreme Court did was an exercise of judicial statesmanship. He called the Davide Court an activist court.

I recently encountered the phrase again in an INQUIRER column of Fr. Joaquin Bernas. He urged the Supreme Court to reopen the protest case filed by defeated presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr.—as an act of judicial statesmanship. The case was pursued by FPJ's wife, Susan Roces, after his death. But Roces' petition to substitute for her husband was struck down by the high court on a technical ground. Father Bernas argued that with the reopening of FPJ's protest case, the attention of the nation would be focused on the Presidential Electoral Tribunal—which would pursue the case vigorously, until such time that it would be able to determine who really won in the May 2004 presidential election.

The frantic call for President Macapagal-Arroyo's impeachment and the maddening protest rallies demanding her resignation would then become unnecessary. But this could only be realized if the Supreme Court exercised, once again, that act of judicial statesmanship. If the honorable justices did it in January 2001 to save the nation from chaos and bloodshed, why couldn't they do it now for the same reason? And it would undoubtedly be a defining moment for Hilario Davide Jr., who is retiring as chief justice this December.

—CESAR T. PUENTENEGRA,
Gullas Law School,
University of the Visayas,
Cebu City



A republic in all fronts

THIS is a follow-up to the letter of W.E. Chiongson of Iloilo City. (PDI, 8/12/05)

A responsible LGU-elected official must rather call for unity rather than division. "For a house divided against itself cannot stand," Christ admonished.

The organized terrorist groups in our country are all happy by the announcement of some provincial leaders of their intention to create a new Ilocos Republic, Davao Republic, Visayas Republic, etc.

Reading from history, terrorists have existed even during the time of President Quezon. His wife was ambushed and killed by a terrorist group that wanted to create another republic. Yet terrorism became a household word only after the 9/11 incident.

We, Filipinos, are actually killing one another in an attempt to create a new republic. We have a Democratic front, Liberation front, and now some politicians want an Ilocos front, Davao front, Visayas front, etc. A civil war is indeed sure to come, or is there one already?

—SANTI BANCAL,
Kabankalan City

Pleasant reading on animal lovin'

IT was a pleasure to read the article "Easy Animal Lovin'" in the Lifestyle 2bU! Section of the INQUIRER last July 27. I hope that pro-animal features would be a regular part of the newspaper.

—JACKIE BAUT,
Palawan Animal Welfare Association, PO Box 362
Puerto Princesa City, Palawan

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Bishop urges prayers to stop dengue

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Parishes in Cebu will storm the heaven with prayers to ask for the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary to hold off dengue fever, which has claimed the lives of 43 people in the city and province from January to August.

Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal has ordered the parish priests in Cebu to pray a novena to the Virgin of Guadalupe, Cebu's patron saint, "specifically for the intention of warding off the evil of dengue, in all of our parish churches."

He asked the priests to begin the novena as soon as possible and that a small procession with the image of the Blessed Virgin be held within the church compound after every novena.

"As we face the danger of this dreaded mosquito-borne disease, our thoughts go back to that salvific event in 1902 when the cholera epidemic that ravaged Cebu was halted through the powerful intercession of Mary, the Lady of Guadalupe," said Vidal in his circular dated Aug. 20 that appeared in yesterday's issue of Ang Lungsuranon, the official newsletter of the Cebu Archdiocese.

"Today, we need to turn to her motherly care and protection that we may be spared from the specter of a dengue epidemic," he added.

Msgr. Esteban Binghay, episcopal vicar and parish priest of Minglanilla town, said he and most of the other parish priests decided to start the nine-day novena on Wednesday so it would end on Sept. 8, the feast of the Blessed Virgin.

For his part, he said the novena would not just be held in the main church of Minglanilla but also in the different chapels in the barangays.

Binghay said the novena would be held after the dawn aurora and before the start of the 5 a.m. Mass.

"Preferably, the novena will be held at dawn because there is more sense of sacrifice than [holding it] in the afternoon," he added.

In his circular, Vidal also asked the different religious organizations to help the clean-up drive to remove the possible breeding places of *Aedes aegypti*, the day-light-biting dengue-causing mosquitoes.

"I also enjoin all Marian organizations in the parish to join hands in campaigning for environmental sanitation, starting in their own church compound," he said.

"By doing so, our prayer to ward off dengue is coupled by our readiness to work for it," he added.

Vidal quoted in his circular the reported number of dengue cases in the country, especially in Central Visayas, which was increasing at an alarming pace.

Pagadian imposes ban on wearing headgear for motorbikers

PAGADIAN CITY—The increasing number of killings and robbery incidents perpetrated by motorcycle-riding men here have prompted Mayor Samuel Co to impose a ban on the wearing of crash helmets, bonnets and other headgear that may conceal identities.

In an order issued on Tuesday, Co also imposed a slow speed limit for all motorcycles entering the city proper. The new speed limit for motorcycles is 20 kilometers per hour.

Co said the new regulation on the wearing of helmets would help authorities identify suspected criminals through surveillance cameras that were installed recently around the city.

"Any motorist who exceeds the speed limit will be flagged down by traffic law enforcers and will be asked to present proper identification, including vehicle registration and licenses," he said.

Police records show that "most criminals use motorcycles as getaway vehicle after committing the crime," Co said.

Many killings in the city, including the Feb. 2 murder of teacher Edgar Amoro, a prime witness to the murder of journalist Edgar Damalerio, have been committed by motorcycle-riding men.

Co said the police also noticed that most robberies were perpetrated by men, usually riding in tandem on motorcycles.

Chief Insp. Robert Bahian, city police chief, said the new anticrime measure would help the police not only in their drive against criminality but also against terrorism.

"The police can easily identify the suspects through surveillance cameras installed in the ingress and egress of the city," he said.

At least 48 cameras have been installed in and around the city since July. *Michael F. Sarcauga, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

US firm protests ₱250-M tax payment to LGUs

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—After paying P250.7 million to the provincial government last month, an American firm has filed a protest over the real property taxes leveled against its power-generation facility in Alfonso Castañeda town.

Perfecto Martinez Jr., provincial treasurer, on Friday said his office received the protest of California Energy Casecnan Water and Energy Co. (CE Casecnan) which questioned the local tax impositions against the Casecnan Multi-Purpose Irrigation and Power Project (CMIPP).

The protest, which was filed by lawyers from the Sycip Salazar and Hernandez law firm, said it was the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), not CE Casecnan, which was liable to pay real property taxes.

The firm cited its 25-year build-operate-transfer agreement with the government that designated NIA as CMIPP's "beneficial owner."

In a supplemental agreement executed last year, NIA claimed absolute responsibility for all tax impositions against the project.

Citing NIA's protest pending before the Central Board of Assessment Appeals, CE Casecnan said the issue of whether taxes were due on the CMIPP property should first be resolved before the local government could continue collecting real property taxes.

It also said machines and equipment used in the CMIPP were exempt from taxation because these were "actually, directly and exclusively used by the NIA."

"In addition, any property not exempt is subject to a 10-percent assessment level," the CE Casecnan protest said.

Martinez said his office has 60 days to resolve the CE Casecnan protest based on the province's tax ordinance.

Last month, CE Casecnan stopped the auction of CMIPP after its lawyers handed Gov. Luisa Cuaresma a check worth P250.7 million as payment for the accumulated tax obligations since the CMIPP started operations in December 2001.

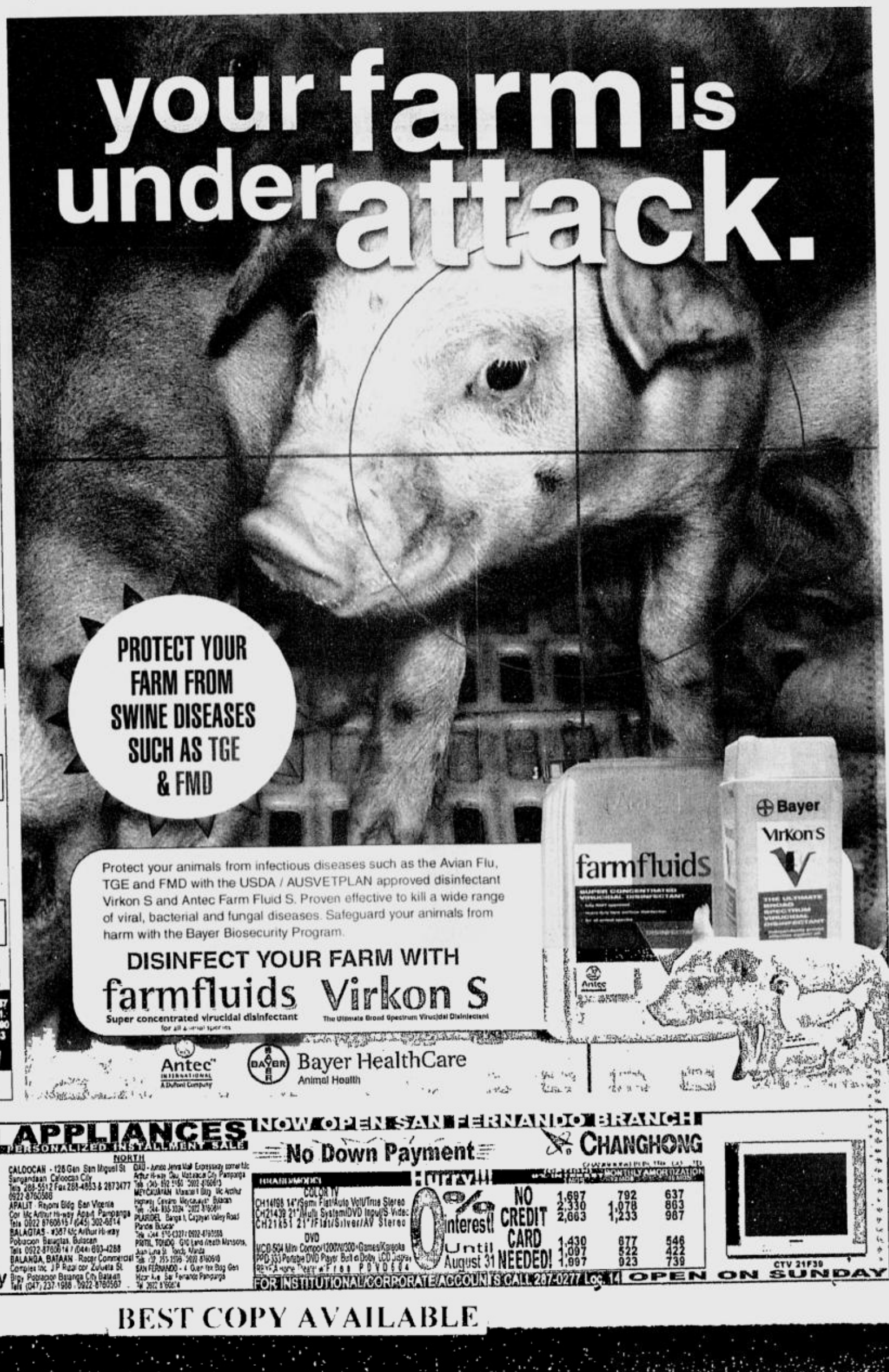
But the firm said it paid the amount "under protest." The amount covered P186.2 million in unpaid real property taxes, P59.6 million in penalties and P4.9 million in "administrative cost" for 14 pieces of property estimated to be worth P3.1 billion.

The CMIPP property that were declared delinquent by the provincial treasurer's office include two diversion weirs, a pair of 26-km tunnels and a number of buildings and machines in Barangays Pelaway and Abuyo in Alfonso Castañeda town, some 150 km from here.

In a letter to provincial officials, Linda Castillo, CE Casecnan vice president and general counsel, said the company was "left with no option other than to pay the real property taxes."

This after the firm's lawyers failed to obtain from the regional trial court and the Court of Appeals a temporary restraining order on CMIPP's sale on July 25.

Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



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Lucena anticrime drive intensified

LUCENA CITY—The local government has intensified its campaign against criminality following three successive street robbery incidents.

Last week, a local construction magnate was robbed by motorcycle-riding men. Two days later, a manager of a local fast food center was the victim.

The victims, who had just made bank withdrawals, lost a total of more than P1 million.

On Monday, robbers struck again, this time on the van of a rice trader, shooting and killing the driver. A police report said the van passengers were divested of P1,060,000.

Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr. said the city government would purchase 10 motorcycles, several Armalite rifles and communications equipment to beef up police capability in stopping criminality.

He warned that he would not hesitate to seek the transfer of any policeman found to be inefficient.

Talaga urged all banks here to strictly implement the ban on the use of mobile phones inside their premises.

"Criminals use cell phones to coordinate their movements," he said.

Local banks prominently display notices prohibiting the use of cell phones inside the premises, but the warnings are often ignored.

Talaga appealed to local businessmen to coordinate with the police if they needed to withdraw huge sums of money from the bank.

"My policemen will provide them security the moment they step out of the bank up to their final destination," he said.

City police chief Supt. Conrado Capa said his men were closely working on leads provided by informants in solving the robberies.

Police have also put up checkpoints in strategic areas inside and outside the city proper.

Quezon police chief Senior Supt. Vic Caragan Jr. has assigned more policemen to augment the local police force.

Mannix Osorio, president of the Lucena Bankers Association, said in a local TV program that the rash of robberies victimizing bank clients had affected most banks.

The banks have been beset by requests from clients that they deliver their withdrawals to them, he said.

The bank official urged clients to learn to avail themselves of other bank services, like checking accounts.

Sacked

In Tuguegarao City, Chief Supt. Jefferson Soriano, Cagayan Valley police director, sacked Chief Insp. Dominador Ursulum, Buguey police chief, and the town's 23 policemen and ordered them to report to the regional police office.

Soriano said the relief was due to the 15 unsolved murder cases in the town recorded since 2000. Most of the cases were election-related, he said.

Chief Insp. Romeo Mangwag replaced Ursulum as Buguey's police chief. The new police force assigned in the town came from the provincial police office and nearby towns of Buguey.

"I challenge the new police force to adhere to the rule of law. We need to impose an iron hand at all times," he said.

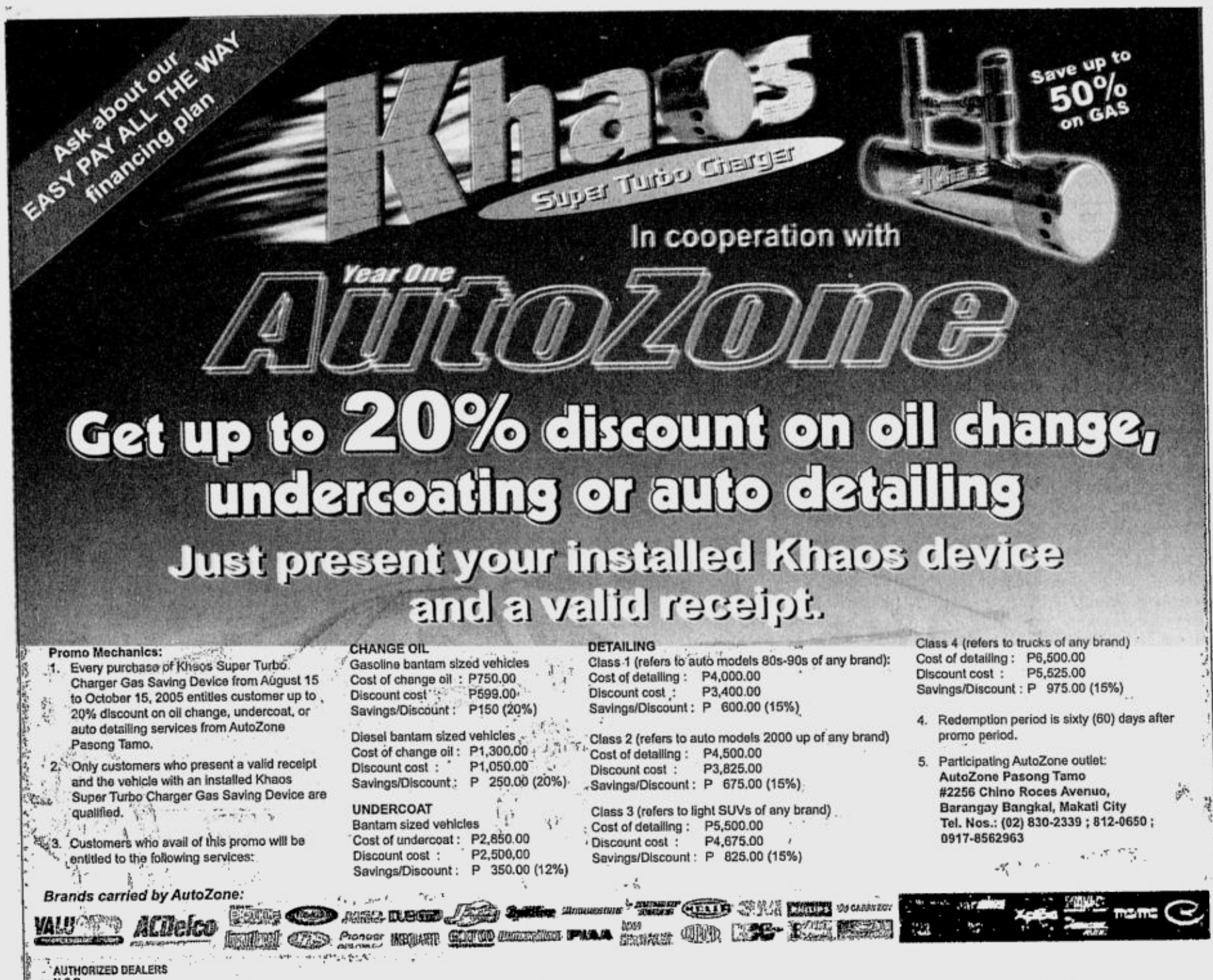
Soriano said the intense political rivalry among the political clans of the Antipordas, Alipios, Tamargos and Molinas in the town prompted him to overhaul the police force amid reports that some policemen have been identified with rival political groups.

The relieved policemen will undergo a 30-day retraining and seminar before they are given new assignments, he said.

The latest killing in the town involved an aide of former Vice Mayor Loreto Alipio Sr., reports said. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

ENERGY SAVERS
These clay stoves from Cagayan Valley are popular in the hinterland town of Sagada in Mt. Province, where firewood is more abundant than liquefied petroleum gas and kerosene. Each stove sells for P380 and consumers say they last longer than LPG burners.



ROUNDUP

Informants rewarded

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Four unidentified informants received a total of P1.45 million from the military on Friday for helping authorities capture at least four Abu Sayyaf bandits. Southern Command deputy chief Brig. Gen. Francisco Callelero and intelligence officer Col. Nathaniel Obligacion, distributed the reward money to the informants, who wore white shirts and orange baseball caps and whose faces were covered with handkerchiefs. One of the recipients got P1 million while the three others got P150,000 each. *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

80 militiamen activated

OZAMIZ CITY—The military boosted its presence in the hinterlands of Misamis Occidental by activating over 80 militiamen. Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza said during his visit here on Wednesday that the paramilitary force would complement law enforcement units in the province. Six months ago, the provincial peace and order council sought the activation of more militiamen to combat illegal logging in Mt. Malindang. Most of the illegal loggers are armed and have threatened to harm environment officials.

Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Palm oil demand up

DAVAO CITY—The Department of Agriculture has included palm oil in its list of priority commodities in the country because of growing demand. The country's demand for palm oil has been growing by 2.18 percent per year, which has pushed the shortfall to about 40,000 metric tons. Palm oil is cheaper than coconut oil and can be reused several times, the DA said. Last year, the Philippines imported over 98,000 MT of palm oil valued at $49.72 million, five times higher than the volume imported in 2003, according to DA data. To meet the demand, the country needs to develop 12,000-18,000 hectares of palm oil plantations every year. *Judy Quiros, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Marines hunt dogs

TUBOD, Lanao del Norte—Marine soldiers have joined the hunt for stray dogs that have victimized 23 persons in Magsaysay, Lanao del Norte, according to Mayor Harun Omar. Gov. Imelda Dimaporo has ordered the immediate purchase and delivery of antirabies vaccines as the number of requests for assistance rose. Antirabies vaccines cost about P1,000 per vial and victims of dog bites must receive several shots to avoid possible death.

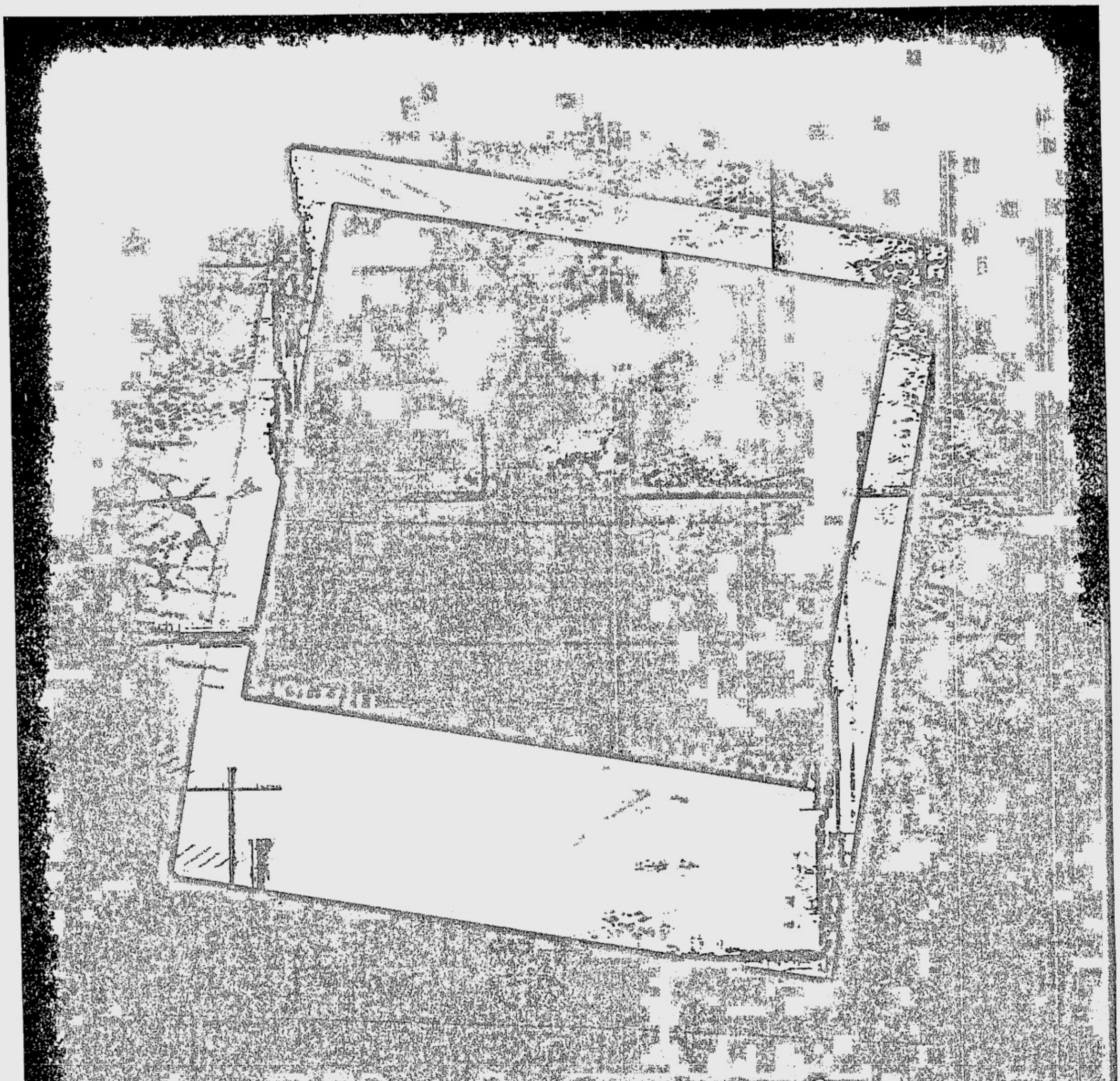
Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Nat'l Dog Olympics

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A three-day National Dog Olympics, which organizers hope would thrust the city into the limelight, kicked off here on Friday, in time for the celebration of the 7th Tuna Festival, the main feature of the city's 37th charter anniversary celebration. Organizers said the event was so far the largest assembly of utility dogs or dog sports players from various parts of the country. The competition, the first to be held here, featured the "Mondio Ring," a higher dog sports discipline popularized in Europe, the United States and Japan. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

New traffic scheme

CITY OF CALAPAN—The Philippine Ports Authority on Aug. 22 started implementing a new traffic and safety scheme for passengers and vehicles at the city Port, using its luggage walk-through X-ray machines worth P6.4 million. Gate 1 serves as entry point with five booths from government agencies, nine ticketing booths of roll-on-roll-off and fastcraft vessels, and 20 vendors' booths, said Emmanuel Peña, port police division station commander. Gate 3 serves as exit point. *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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Small fishers help revive sea urchin industry

JIMMY DOMINGO/CONTRIBUTOR

A GUIDE shows visitors of Sohoton Cove in Siargao Island, Surigao a sea urchin, whose meat, known locally as "tuyom," is eaten as an aphrodisiac.

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BOLINAO, Pangasinan—When rain started to fall in May, several small fishermen decided to release their cultured sea urchins into a patch of sea grass in the Lingayen Gulf off this town.

They could have sold the sea urchins (*Tripneustes gratilla*) and used the money for their needs, or they could have consumed the roe themselves.

But they chose to revive the sea urchin industry, rehabilitate the marine environment and help other small fishermen earn a living. Sea urchins are eaten as delicacies in restaurants.

Jessem Gabatin, chair of the Kaisahan ng mga Samahan Alay sa Kalikasan (Kaisaka), said the fishermen had to release the cultured urchins because they would die in cages when freshwater intrude into the area during the rainy season.

Sea urchins, he said, could not survive in low-salinity water. "If we harvest the cultured urchins, there will be less stock to lay eggs in the sea. It's really a sacrifice but it is worth it because the urchins would proliferate in the sea grass where water has high salinity," Gabatin said.

He said members of Kaisaka would restock their cages at the marine protected area in Barangay Balingasay next month when rains stop. The culture period will continue until April next year.

In another part of the sea, Roger Corbillon and other fishermen transfer their cages in areas not affected by rainwater.

In such areas, the sea urchins continue to reproduce and there is a higher survival rate.

Corbillon, secretary of the Samahan ng Maliliit na Mangingisda sa Victory, said the organization does not really earn much from the activity but that the culture of sea urchins helps other fishermen who make a living from gathering and selling them.

"Those in the wild are for them," Corbillon said.

The urchins' eggs float out of the cages into the wild to repopulate Bolinao's waters, where urchins were once abundant.

Corbillon said two members of the organization take care of the cages but do not get paid for their efforts. The proceeds from the sale of sea urchins go to the maintenance of the five-hectare marine protected area in the village.

The restocking of the depleted species was an initiative of the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI), which maintains a laboratory in the town.

The project started in 1994, a couple of years after the sea urchin industry here collapsed.

The provincial governments of Pangasinan and La Union have taken over the project that is being implemented by the Sagip Lingayen Gulf, a non-government organization based at the UP-MSI, the Tanggol Kalikasan and the Sentro para sa Ikauunlad ng Agham at Teknolohiya.

Pangasinan Gov. Victor Agbayani said the project would help fishermen dependent on the Lingayen Gulf.

The gulf's resources, he said, had been depleted because of overfishing, illegal fishing and pollution.

Don Dumale of the Sagip Lingayen Gulf said the revived sea urchin industry was still fragile and could collapse again if the fishermen did not cooperate with conservation efforts pushed by various groups.

Dumale said the UP-MSI gave the seed stocks to the fishermen for free. The institute, he said, was readying 30,000 seed stocks for distribution in November.

The fishermen are asked to harvest the urchins only on the seventh month of culture. By that time, the urchins would have spawned several times and millions of eggs would have been out in the sea, he said.

Sea urchins spawn during new and full moon and each spawning period would mean millions of eggs from each urchin.

Many fishermen have benefited from the sea urchin rehabilitation project, Dumale said, but like in the 1980s, when the industry was at its peak, fishermen gather even the young urchins.

Traders slam environmental tax plan in Palawan

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A proposed revenue code that will impose an environmental protection tax on fish and other marine resources shipped out of Palawan for commercial purposes was opposed by businessmen here who claimed they were not invited to a public hearing on Aug. 25.

One businessman who attended the hearing said "he invited himself" because he was not informed about it.

He said the proposed code would affect businesses and even consumers.

The Navotas-based Alliance of Philippine Fishing Federations (APFF) sent a representative but insisted that they were also not informed.

Vincent Minace Jr., secretary general of the APFF, said they learned about the public hearing only from somebody else.

They presented a position paper of the council's ways and means committee opposing the proposed environmental protection tax.

Under the proposed revenue code, tax will be imposed on the following items per kilo on each shipment: Live fish (P20), shark fins (P10), live squid and lobster (P5), dried fish (P1.50), dried *balatan* (P3), seaweeds and cuttle fish (P1), fresh squid, crab meat, *alimango*, *alimasag*, shrimps and fresh fish (P2) directly shipped out from the fishing ground within the territorial jurisdiction of Palawan by commercial fishing vessels and other marine products (P1).

Milkfish fry shipment will be charged P5 for every thousand, and pearls and decorative shells, 1 percent of market value.

The APFF, an umbrella organization of municipal and commercial fishing organizations has criticized the proposed ordinance as arbitrary, said Minace.

The measure would affect the nation's food security, the APFF paper contended, pointing out that the organization was producing about 35 percent of the nation's total fish requirement.

It added that the group's members employed more than 6,000 fish workers on board fishing vessels and more than 3,000 land-based laborers, mostly coming from Cuyo, Magsaysay, Coron, Busuanga and Puerto Princesa City.

This alone, Minace said, gave a big contribution to Palawan. But he clarified that the group was not evading payment of taxes.

The provincial board has proposed that the charges for fresh fish be collected at the Navotas fish port.

It said the local government unit's power to create sources of revenue is not inherent.

Councilor Rocky Austria said the proposed code might result in double taxation because the city and other municipalities also imposed the same kind of fees and charges.

He asked that a period of two weeks be given so that the proposed code could be further studied.

The provincial council said it would call more public hearings among various sectors. *Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Films on Agno River, Mindoro mining cited in festival

TWO documentary films that focused on the experiences of indigenous peoples in the Cordillera in protecting their environment won top prizes in the Moonrise Documentary Film Festival in Metro Manila last week.

"Agno," directed by Erlyn Ruth Alcantara, bagged the best documentary on rivers and lakes category, while "Moving Mountains" by Boyette and Luz Rimban bagged the "Grand Charlie" top prize in the competition.

The documentary, titled "Wailing of Paradise" of the Communication for Evangelization and Development Center (CEDC) of the Apostolic Vicariate of Calapan, was proclaimed best film in the mining category.

Alcantara's "Agno" was about the fight of Benguet Ibalois and Pangasinan residents who live along the Agno River against the construction of the San Roque Dam.

The film tackled the impact of large dam projects, such as San Roque, on small farming communities in Barangay Dalupirip in Itogon, Benguet and in San Nicolas and San Manuel towns in Pangasinan.

"Moving Mountains" tackled the destructive effects of large-scale corporate mining on the environment, culture and the lives in the communities in the Cordillera.

Fr. Edu Gariguez, scriptwriter of the 29-minute film documentary "Wailing of Paradise" depicts the campaign of the people of Mindoro against the entry of the large-scale mining of the Mindoro Nickel Project of Crew Development Corp., a Canadian mining corporation, and the local firm Aglubang Mining.

"It highlights the concerted efforts of the basic sectors, the civil society, including the Church and the local government units, in opposing the industry that threatens the rich biodiversity, the livelihood of the people, the ancestral domains of the Mangyan indigenous peoples and the fragile ecosystems of the island province of Mindoro," said Father Gariguez.

The festival was organized by Center for Environmental Awareness and Education. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

North Negros forest now protected area

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Efforts to protect the North Negros Forest Reserve (NNFR), a wildlife sanctuary and the largest watershed of Negros Occidental, have been boosted with a proclamation declaring it a protected area.

President Macapagal-Arroyo signed on Aug. 15, Proclamation No. 895 that converts NNFR into the North Negros Natural Park, said Provincial Environment Management Officer Edwin Abanil.

The NNFR is now a component of the Philippine National Protected Area System along with the Sagay Marine Reserve and the Mt. Kanlaon Natural Park, both in Negros Occidental.

Abanil said it was important that the NNFR be declared a protected area in order to maintain its ecological processes and life support systems, preserve the genetic diversity, ensure sustainable use of resources and maintain its natural conditions to the greatest possible extent.

The NNFR covers 80,454.50 hectares, straddling the cities of Talisay, Silay, Victorias, Sagay and San Carlos, and the municipalities of EB Magalona, Murcia, Toboso, Calatrava and Don Salvador Benedicto.

It is considered the largest watershed of Negros Occidental and a wildlife sanctuary where rare and endangered species of flora and fauna exist.

These include the Hornbill (Tarictic and Kalaw), Bleeding Heart Pigeon, Visayan Warty Pig and the Philippine Spotted Dear.

The NNFR is also home to some species of plants and animals not found elsewhere in the world. The Birdlife International has identified NNFR as an International Bird Area.

With the proclamation, the NNFR becomes the largest protected area in Western Visayas, and the second in the whole Visayas region.

Of the different forested areas in two provinces of Negros Island, NNNP has also the largest remaining forest cover estimated at 22,288.80 hectares, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

A report earlier sent by Abanil to the provincial government, said there were many threats to the NNFR's ecological integrity and biodiversity.

These include the large settlements inside the reserve composed of 8,814 households within the 42 barangays that exert pressure on the NNFR.

Unsustainable and destructive livelihood activities have endangered several fauna and flora and had caused the extinction of others, the report said.

Large tracts of forestlands have been converted into agricultural use that adopts technologies dependent on pesticide and chemicals, it said.

Baguio cyclists want lanes as energy-saving measure

BAGUIO CITY—For the sake of energy conservation and clean air, cyclists and motorcycle and scooter users in the city are asking local officials to build bike lanes and allow them to use major roads here.

The Pines Scooter Group (PSG) is leading the move to repeal City Ordinance No. 6, which prohibits scooters, motorcycles and bicycles from plying the central business district.

"The ordinance was created in 1965 and concerns prevailing at that time no longer exist," said Donald Chan, PSG president.

"Motorcycles produce less harmful pollutants than cars, vans, SUVs (sport utility vehicles) or buses. They also put less stress on road surfaces," Chan said.

Bicycles and motorcycles are cheaper and take only a fifth of the parking space occupied by a car, he said.

The PSG is having a hard time convincing the city council to give them a month-long trial period to allow motorcycles, scooters and bicycles to ply the city's main routes.

Insp. Samuel Bumangil of the Baguio City police office, in a letter to the city planning and development coordinator on July 21, said motorcycles should not be allowed in the central business district except on emergency cases.

Bumangil said from May to June, seven accidents involving motorcycles were recorded in the downtown area.

Motorcycles were observed weaving in "from left to right, from one lane to another" and this was "very risky" for other motorists, he added.

He said parked motorcycles also obstruct vehicles' passage.

The PSG recommended the establishment of bike lanes for the motorcyclists and bikers so they could avoid accidents.

"The maneuverability of motorcycles does not pose any threat to other motorists and pedestrians. In fact, it is very advantageous as it helps speed up traffic flow," a PSG letter said.

Chan said motorcycles are more economical and environment-friendly than cars.

He said a motorcycle could run from 40 to 50 km per liter, which is two to four times farther than most cars could reach per liter of gasoline.

He said modern motorcycles do not emit much smoke unlike their counterparts in 1965, the time when the ordinance was enacted.

More importantly, the PSG said banning them in city roads is a violation of Republic Act 4136 or the Land Transportation and Traffic Code.

"Its continued enforcement deprives motorcyclists of their right to freely use the roads in violation of the provisions of special laws, particularly RA 4136," Chan said. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

No classes today, no work in gov't offices

From page A1

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco yesterday said there would be no trading at the Philippine Dealing System—the local foreign exchange electronic trading system—but all banks would be open for business.

The Philippine Clearing House Corp. will be open to accept checks from banks for settlement on Tuesday, Tetangco said.

Francis Lim, president of the Philippine Stock Exchange, also told reporters that there would be no trading on the bourse on Monday but the PSE offices will be open for business.

The Department of Education yesterday announced that public schools in the elementary and high school levels would have no classes after President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita to draft an order declaring Aug. 29, Monday, a public holiday.

The President gave the order two days after Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye declared that Monday would be a regular working day because National Heroes Day was normally observed on the last Sunday of August every year under the law.

Changes

When the President declared on Saturday that Aug. 29 would be a public holiday, "this changes the earlier announcement that Monday will be a regular working holiday because Heroes Day is the last Sunday of August under the law. Monday is now a school holiday," said DepEd Undersecretary Ramon Bacani.

For the third straight day yesterday, Malacañang flip-flopped on the details of its declaration of a special nonworking holiday today.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita issued Proclamation Order No. 901 declaring Aug. 29 "a special (nonworking) day in the public sector and in all schools (public and private) at all levels."

The Bureau of Customs is the only public sector group required to open for work today, according to the order.

Ermita said the special holiday was in commemoration of National Heroes Day, which was celebrated yesterday.

Apology

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye apologized for yet another late clarification. On Saturday, Bunye announced that Aug. 29 was a public holiday and that there would be no work or classes in both the public and private sectors.

On Friday, he said that Aug. 29 was not a holiday because he noted that traditionally, National Heroes Day was celebrated on a Sunday and, thus, the next day was not a holiday.

Yesterday, Bunye clarified that the private sector was excluded from today's holiday after private firms, especially those in the manufacturing sector, requested it.

"My understanding is that private manufacturing concerns, especially with tight deadlines to meet, requested not to be included (in the special nonworking holiday)," he said in a text message.

He said it was not the first time that Malacañang came out with a proclamation order involving the declaration of holidays that excluded the private sector.

Business request

Interviewed over RMN radio, Bunye said many private companies, especially manufacturers, had to meet their deadlines. "That is why [the order] only covered government offices," he said.

The press secretary gave assurances that Malacañang would ensure that it would notify the public early about its next holiday pronouncements.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said the latest Palace clarification was a concession to the business sector.

Sto. Tomas conceded that private firms as much as possible wanted to know in advance the days to be declared holidays. Otherwise, she said, it would not only mean delay in their production schedules but a doubling of their operation costs as well.

A spokesperson of the National Economic and Development Authority said the agency would hold its press conference as scheduled at 10 a.m. today to announce the official economic growth data for the second quarter. A Reuters poll of 10 economists gave a median forecast of 4.55 percent for GDP growth in the year through the second quarter, slower than the government's estimate of 4.7-5.1 percent in the period.

Reports by Alcuin Papa, Christine Avendaño and Reuters

People power illiberal strain of RP democracy

From page A1

liberalism," in particular the rule of law and due process, state protection of fundamental political, human and property rights, and the legal separation of Church and State.

"Democracy, in turn, starts with civilian government, universal suffrage, and the election of public officials, especially the national executive and the legislature," says the essay.

It argues that better election security since 1986 has "put the Philippines on the path to liberal democracy," but liberalism "has not developed at a pace equal to democracy beyond the basic level of safer elections."

Ignored by elites

Although the 1987 Constitution respects a host of rights and freedom, the essay points out, "in practice they are often violated or ignored by the elite, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and insurgents. It identifies other sources of "illiberal democracy" among them, public religion and people power, which "present a major dilemma."

While Catholic Church action "has protected both democracy and liberalism in terms of election security," it challenged the Western ideal of the separation of Church and State, the essay argues.

"Moreover, the Church and other social forces have embraced people power as a legitimate antidote to perceived abuses of executive power," which the essay describes as "a dangerous practice that has become part of partisan rivalry," that is being played out in the current crisis epitomized by the call of another people power to bring pressure on Ms Arroyo to resign in the wake of accusations that she had rigged the 2004 elections.

The paper argues that based on an analysis of the 2004 elections, "illiberal democracy in the Philippines rests on strong foundations."

On one hand, it argues, bad government, armed men, and the mainstreaming of military activism "have deepened the illiberal strain of the political culture since the ouster of Marcos."

On the other hand, it argues that the "reassertion of democratic nationalism by prominent institutions and public opinion, and new technologies and types of representation, have reinforced a democracy that rests on solid footing even though it may often appear on the brink of collapse."

Illiberal strain

The article devotes a section to the examination of people power as an illiberal strain of Philippine democracy. It defines people power as "a capital revolt against a sitting head of state" and has become "a major focal point for the development of constitutional liberalism and democracy."

Since 1986, the paper points out, people power has joined political leaders, the AFP, Catholic Church and thousands of people together to demand a change of leadership. It notes that advocates call it the "victory of the popular will over abuse of power, while critics argue that it replaces due process with mob rule and a 21st century version of investiture."

People power is a legacy of the Marcos brand of "illiberal autocracy" in several ways, the paper says. "One is partisan politics. The original anti-Marcos coalition led by Corazon Aquino, (Fidel) Ramos and (Jaime Cardinal) Sin, has triumphed in all three people power movements; I and II removed Presidents (Ferdinand) Marcos and (Joseph) Estrada, while III against Arroyo failed."

The paper points out that from one point of view the three people power movements have been consistent, "pitting black sheep like Marcos and Estrada against old political families represented by Aquino and Arroyo, military reformers led by Ramos, cosmopolitan professionals and students in Manila, and a Church fearful of a return to illiberal autocracy."

"This would make them simultaneously, partisan, democratic and idealistic. On the other hand, people power is not a liberal device, since its initiation, conduct, and resolution are not delineated in the constitution."

Less spontaneous

Moreover, the paper points out that "each iteration of people power has become less spontaneous, idealistic and pure, and more calculated, realistic and corrupt.

"Even worse for proponents of liberal democracy, the assimilation of people power into partisan politics might breed a general refusal to accept the results of any election, no matter how legitimate, and turn civil disobedience into anarchy without proper leadership and sobriety."

The paper concludes that people power "is at once a blend of partisan rivalry, democratic idealism, and religious nationalism that symbolizes the replacement of illiberal autocracy with illiberal democracy. In 2004, people power did not materialize because elites and residents of Manila decided it was not necessary."

Although since 1986, people power has become a legitimate antidote of perceived abuses of state power, the paper argues, "the goals are democratic, but the methods are illiberal."

"If leaders have lost the right to govern, they should be removed through elections." The paper argues. "If people power continues to become a partisan device rather than an extraordinary response to an unusual situation, it will become increasingly arbitrary."

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Gordon: No politics in Subic shake-up

From page A1

sacrificed by the President in a bid to muster more allies to fend off the impeachment case against her. Three impeachment complaints accuse the President of vote-rigging and other illegal acts.

Gordon denied reports that Arreza's appointment was a trade-off for his vote against the impeachment of Ms Arroyo if the complaint gets transmitted from the House of Representatives to the Senate for trial.

"Do you think I will vote against the impeachment case? Am I a robot who can't think for myself?" he said.

Unfair

Asked if he had dangled support for the President in the impeachment issue as a condition for the appointment of his nominees to the SBMA, Gordon said that was "very, very unfair" to the President.

"I'm shocked," he said of his reaction to Senator Arroyo's statements.

Gordon said that if he were pro-Ms Arroyo, he would not have asked the President's son Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo to go on leave at the height of calls for the President to resign.

Ms Arroyo has neither become hostage to the impeachment case "nor to any political interest groups," her political adviser said.

"Normal or cyclical organizational movements in the government bureaucracy are just given more political color and meaning where there are none," the President's political adviser Gabriel Claudio said in a text message.

Contrary to the reports, Gordon said he had neither recommended Arreza for Antonio's post nor planned to use him to regain control of the free port, which he had administered in the 1990s.

Pichay's first cousin

"Is that how low the INQUIRER thinks of me?" he said, unable to hide his disgust over the paper's banner story yesterday, which quoted several sources as saying that Gordon had pushed for Arreza's appointment for his personal interest. "I got the raw end of the deal here."

The senator reiterated that it was Inky Reyes, a former SBMA volunteer like Arreza, whom he had recommended for the administrator's post, which Antonio left following his transfer to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' Monetary Board.

Reyes was deputy administrator and chief of staff of Gordon when the latter served as SBMA chair from 1992 to 1998.

Gordon said he had recommended Arreza, his finance manager at the SBMA, to the SBMA board of directors and got the position.

Gordon also defended Arreza from insinuations that he clinched his appointment because he had the right connections in government. Arreza is a first cousin (not brother-in-law as earlier reported) of staunch presidential ally Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay.

"That is very unfair to the guy. Armand is a very decent man. I practically raised this guy. When nobody was interested in Subic, young people with a good education like him took the risk by volunteering for Subic," he said, recalling the collective effort of volunteers to rebuild the free port in the aftermath of the Mt. Pinatubo eruptions and the departure of the American military in 1991.

"We got jobs, we got Subic going. What's wrong with that?"

Arreza, who graduated from the Ateneo de Manila University in 1993 with a degree in industrial engineering, served as Gordon's finance director, and later attended the Wharton School in the United States. He also served as Gordon's undersecretary at the Department of Tourism.

Smuggling

Instead of airing criticisms, Senator Arroyo should look into the reports of smuggling in the free port, a former United States military base covering Zambales and Bataan, Gordon told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

"He always criticizes. He better look into what (former SBMA Chair Felicito) Payumo did in Subic. Much of it was about smuggling," Gordon said.

Payumo, who was installed in July 1998 by then President Joseph Estrada after almost three months of a standoff with Gordon, said the senator was sidetracking the issue.

"[Gordon] wants to corner the top posts there by pressuring the President, knowing how vulnerable she is now," Payumo told the INQUIRER.

Payumo said it was during Gordon's term as SBMA chair that the auction of used vehicles and the importation of sport utility vehicles (SUVs) began. The latter was done without payment of the ad valorem tax.

"There was also smuggling during [Gordon's] time," he said.

Disallowed expenditures

"I thought the issue is Gordon trying to get back Subic by holding the President hostage with his impeachment threat. He wants to divert the issue. Why does he not answer his P854-million disallowed expenditures?" Payumo said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

He said it was during the time of Gordon that smuggling began, with more than 300 vehicles avoiding P300 million in ad valorem taxes by merely adding jump seats.

"He started the used vehicles auction by the Ritchie brothers. At least during my term, conversion to left-hand was declared legal by the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel, Office of the President and the House committee on transportation," Payumo said.

Gordon also appealed to his critics to "keep my wife out" of the controversy.

Former Olongapo Mayor Katherine Gordon, he said, had no plans to run for any elective position or join the SBMA.

He scored INQUIRER sources for portraying the couple in a bad light by claiming they had political plans and that they were out to use Subic to wield such powers.

"*Binastos kaming mag-asawa* (We were insulted," Gordon said.

Gordon said it was his "duty to make sure [the Subic free port] succeeds." That, he said, was his only agenda.

Gordon's concern for Subic stemmed from the pullout of Federal Express and, much earlier, several companies like Acer. He voiced this out to some 300 Rotarians gathered in Olongapo City on Saturday.

"That is why I want to have a direct role in the development of Subic. If not, we are all going to suffer," he said.

Gordon said he found it a "weak excuse" for Licuanan to resign because he found it improper that a senator would be lobbying for posts or if he disapproved of the senator's nominees.

"I don't think it's the only reason. There may have been other reasons," Gordon said.

Governor Magsaysay

Zambales Gov. Vicente Magsaysay was reportedly among the politicians who also lobbied Ms Arroyo to accept the resignation of Licuanan.

Last week, according to a top Zambales official, Magsaysay wrote Ms Arroyo to complain about the SBMA policy against the auction of used vehicles imported via the free port.

Magsaysay, according to the source, facilitated the meeting between the President and Zambales Rep. Milagros "Mitos" Magsaysay, the governor's daughter-in-law.

Representative Magsaysay reportedly supports the impeachment case against the President.

Governor Magsaysay confirmed he met with Ms Arroyo last week but denied that he had sought the resignation of either Licuanan or Antonio.

"I told the President that I support Mr. Antonio as administrator," Magsaysay told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview yesterday.

He said his daughter-in-law was not at the meeting. The governor also said he did not discuss with the President where his daughter-in-law stood in the impeachment issue. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

28 hurt in Basilan ...

From page A1

passengers tried to save themselves, rushing down to the wharf.

Moans and screams from the injured and the unscathed filled the air. A look of terror haunted passengers' faces. Mothers cried out for their children.

Seven victims suffered major burns and 21 minor burns.

The Philippine National Police immediately placed all its forces around the country on heightened alert.

Ferrer said it was an incendiary type explosive, which was why the victims did not suffer shrapnel wounds.

He said the military's bomb experts had recovered some burned plastic materials from the scene.

"That explains why some passengers smelled something before the explosion," he said.

Suspect flees

Ten minutes before the blast, witnesses saw a man place a small plastic bag containing a box on the canteen's counter, he said.

"The man hurriedly left and alighted from the ferry," added Ferrer.

Ferry purser Nicholas Urciada, 61, said he was walking near the canteen when a loud explosion ripped through the ferry.

"I sat down and covered my face with my hands. I heard people running away on the upper deck yelling, 'Bomb! Bomb!'" Urciada said by telephone from a Lamitan hospital, where he was being treated for burns on his left arm.

A passenger who only gave her name as Elemia, a criminology student at the Universidad de Zamboanga, said that before the explosion, she and other passengers smelled what seemed like LPG.

"All those who were seated near the canteen noticed the strong odor of gas," she said.

Elemia believed it was a gas leak from the ferry's kitchen that caused the explosion.

No group claimed responsibility for the second bomb attack in the south this month.

"It appears to have been caused by an IED that was left near or on top of the counter of the ship's canteen," Armed Forces spokesperson Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual told the INQUIRER.

"The fumes or odor observed after the explosion was that of gunpowder or some kind of chemical," he said.

Pascual said investigators had found traces of black powder and ammonium nitrate at the scene, as well as pieces of a carton box and textiles.

Abu Sayyaf hand

No timing device has been recovered and there was only one explosion, he said.

"If it is established that it was a bomb attack, then we are not discounting the possibility that the Abu Sayyaf did it," said Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, spokesperson of the Philippine National Police.

Basilan is a stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf, whose number has supposedly dwindled to about 400 men following persistent military offensives.

The Dangkalan wharf had just undergone a massive renovation for a roll-on roll-off facility. It was funded by the US government.

Three days ago, US Charge d'Affaires Darryl Johnson led the inauguration of the facility.

Mayor Rhoderick Furigay ruled out any terror angle.

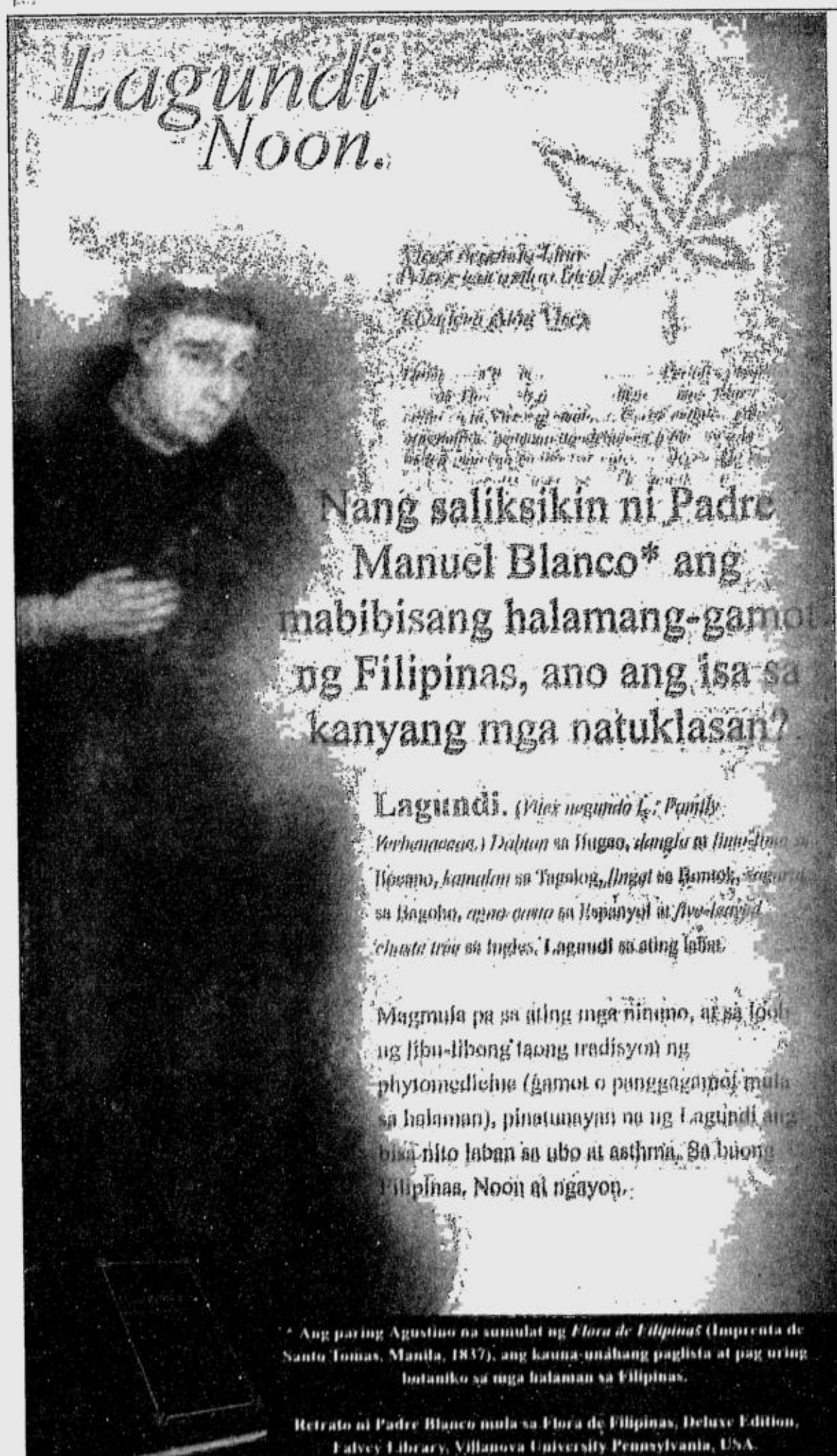
Blast at breakfast time

"We got some information from the crew members that there were some materials for blast fishing stored inside one of the crew member's room, and the room was just adjacent to the canteen," he said.

A portion of the canteen was destroyed, but the vessel was largely intact.

Vice Mayor Jimmy Andong said some of the ferry's 204 passengers were taking breakfast or just milling around when the bomb exploded.

Since last year, the Coast Guard has deployed sea marshals aboard passenger ships to prevent terror attacks. *With reports from Luige A. del Puerto and Leila B. Salaverria in Manila*



'I can't grow old; there's much to do'

ALDAY: I am used to giving up things that will give me joy in order to serve others ERIK ARAZAS

By Tarra V. Quismundo

EVEN while her career of selfless service has hit retirement age, 88-year-old Lucina Alday still wants to do more.

"I continue to pray for God to give me strength because I can do more. I cannot grow old because there is so much more to be done," said the petite Alday, standing tall before a crowd of different generations, mostly younger than hers, who have gathered to pay her tribute.

For public service that has spanned more than 65 years, Alday is this year's recipient of the Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Award given out by the Manila chapter of leadership development organization Junior Chamber International Philippines (Manila Jaycees), and the AY Foundation Inc., the social service arm of the Yuchengco Group of Companies.

"Everyday, in and out, I had to look for an opportunity to be of service to others, and so it became a habit for me," Alday told the audience in her acceptance speech.

Adjudged most deserving out of dozens of nominees from all over the country, Alday was handed her award on Friday at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium in RCBC Plaza in Makati City. It is the latest of more than 250 accolades Alday has received since she began her career in public service in the 1940s.

Last year, the late Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin won the award.

"The Lord indeed is very generous. He cannot be outdone in generosity," said Alday, thanking the awards committee.

An educator and social worker, Alday began her full-time job as an all-around helping hand by working as a teacher and guidance counselor in Pandacan, Manila, in 1937.

"One time in Pandacan, I was going to the market and I saw a mother carrying her baby. When I asked her where she was going, she said she was taking a jeep to take her sick baby to the hospital," Alday told her listeners.

"I ended up giving her all my money, and I walked back home and stayed inside all day with nothing to eat," she added.

In the same spirit, Alday shared half of her cash prize to her choice foundations, among which she had long been involved with as a volunteer.

Shortly after being handed her P1 million prize, she became benefactor anew to the Philippine General Hospital Foundation, the Philippine National Red Cross, the Martin Marasigan Memorial Hospital Foundation, the National Press Club Foundation's scholarship committee, and the Sto. Niño de Pandacan Church. Alday gave each foundation a check worth P100,000.

"I am used to giving up things that will give me joy in order to serve others," she told the awards committee, in a taped interview shown during the ceremonies.

Alday, a native of Cuenca, Batangas, also served as councilor of Manila in 1961 and, during her term, created the Manila Department of Social Welfare.

She also pioneered educational projects for her city's underprivileged youth, including the Further Education Program for out-of-school youth, a rehabilitation program for youth offenders, and a feeding program for the malnourished.

"I was even called Mother Teresa of Pandacan," said Alday.

She also served as director of the Bureau of Women and Minors of the Ministry of Labor and Employment under the administration of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

"Her able representation in many international conferences and seminars in varied subjects such as labor and employment, women and minors, and social development, has helped elevate the status of women here and abroad," the awards committee said in a summary of Alday's life as a public servant.

Currently president of the Philippine Elderly Persons, Inc., Alday recently established the Grandparents Organization of the Philippines, aimed at encouraging senior citizens to take part in educating children through different interactive programs.

While Alday, at her age, has already outlived the Blessed Teresa by a year, it seems her strength would never wane to continue her life-long mission.

"Anyone out there who has been trying to live a life for the poor, the needy, the underprivileged, join me and let's do this together. All of us can be a Mother Teresa," said Alday, receiving cheers and applause from the audience.

What the award is all about

THE BLESSED Teresa of Calcutta Award is given out yearly by the Manila chapter of the Junior Chamber International Philippines (Manila Jaycees), and the AY Foundation Inc., the social service arm of the Yuchengco Group of Companies.

The award was established in 1980 to recognize public servants who live the example of Mother Teresa, the Albanian nun revered by the world for devoting her life to serving and caring for unwanted children, destitutes, the sick, and the dying.

Traffic reduction plan test run set

A TRAFFIC reduction scheme touted to be a timely measure in the midst of a global oil crisis would soon be tested on Edsa, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) announced yesterday.

Early this month, the MMDA would road test its Organized Bus Route (OBR) scheme, a system that would restrict the number of buses on Edsa by limiting dispatch based on commuter volume at a given time, a ranking official said.

"We could not say exactly what date yet, but we are hoping that we could have dry run within this week. That's a possibility, if we are able to address the concerns of bus owners and operators," said MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna.

Malacañang had listed the OBR as part of a national energy conservation effort, in the face of soaring oil prices.

The MMDA had said the bus scheme could cut down fuel expenses for transport firms, as it would reduce daily bus trips from the usual average four to at least two.

It was first implemented as a traffic reduction experiment in December 2003, to target buses plying routes that traverse traffic-choked Edsa. Six terminals in route endpoints—Navotas, Malanday, Novaliches, Bicutan, Alabang, and Baclaran—had been established for the program's full implementation.

During a meeting on the OBR last week, Lacuna said bus operators and company owners opened up to MMDA officials and expressed apprehensions about fair trade under the OBR, in the midst of continuous operations of colorum or illegal buses.

"The talks went just fine, and they were agreeable to the implementation of the OBR. Their only apprehension is that colorum buses might still continue to operate even when we push through with the OBR," Lacuna said in a phone interview yesterday.

"That's understandable since it would seem unfair to them if we restrict them, and the colorum buses would continue to ply routes illegally," he said. *Tarra V. Quismundo*

Metro potholes covered up, says DPWH

EXPECT a smoother ride in Metro Manila.

All of the 13,000 square meters of potholes found on Metro Manila's national roads have been paved over with asphalt as of Friday last week, according to Robert Lala, director of the National Capital Region office of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

"To be honest, it's a bit delayed, but we've already repaired 100 percent of the potholes," he told the INQUIRER.

The deadline for repairing the potholes, which cost P4 million, was Aug. 22.

But Lala also said DPWH personnel would be monitoring the repairs continually because rains, floods and traffic could damage the road and cause new potholes to appear.

"Since it's raining, we're prepared for potholes to appear again. Sometimes, the ones we've just fixed would get broken again because of the rain and floods," he said.

He added that because of this, there may be times in the future that less than 100 percent of the potholes would be considered repaired.

To prevent their work from being destroyed, Lala said DPWH personnel have also been cleaning gutters and waterways to reduce flooding, since it is one of the causes of damage on the roads. *Leila B. Salaverria*

PSHS alumni homecoming set on Sept. 2

THE PHILIPPINE Science High School will hold its grand alumni homecoming and thanksgiving night on Sept. 2, 2005, Friday, at the PSHS Diliman Campus Gym.

This year's host batch, Batch 1980, promises a night of fun, fellowship and great music.

Popular band Rivermaya will entertain alumni with contemporary rhythms starting at 6 p.m. Then at 8 p.m., the alumni will go back in time as they swing and groove to the '70s and '80s music of 8-Track.

Registration starts at 4:30 p.m.

For further information, the alumni may call their respective batch representatives.

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Tutors dispel fears over ISM auction

By Tarra V. Quismundo

FILIPINO teachers of International School Manila (ISM) yesterday dispelled fears expressed by foreign business chambers about the school's auction set to be held a week from now.

"I think it's sad that the foreign chambers made that comment. They are here because they are looking after their businesses, but this is a school issue, not an economic issue. They are making this an economic issue," said Raquel David Ching, president of ISM's teachers' union, the International School Alliance of Educators (ISAE).

Foreign chambers had expressed concern about the ISM's auction, which was ordered by the labor department due to the school's non-compliance with a five-year-old Supreme Court order requiring them to pay some $7.1 million in back wages to 167 Filipino union members of ISAE. The school's bank accounts were also frozen.

Jointly, seven foreign chambers, including the American, Canadian, European, Australian-New Zealand, Korean, and Japanese chambers of commerce, among whose members send their children to ISM, had said in a statement that the auction might force the school to close down.

ISM's closure, they said, could prompt their member firms to rethink business placements in the country, as the lack of an international school "would make it hard for [our] families to remain in the Philippines or move to Manila in the future."

But ISAE said the school would not even have to be auctioned off, much less shut down, if ISM only complied with the high tribunal's 2000 order, the implementation of which was lawfully required through a writ of execution the Department of Labor and Employment issued on July 18.

"What is most critical is that they (ISM) respect the Supreme Court decision. We are talking simply about upholding the rule of law," said Ching yesterday.

After a 10-year legal battle against the ISM, the school's Filipino teachers, some of whom had already retired, won payment of benefits and salary differential covering five years, from 1995 to 2000. They had sued the school for paying Filipino teachers less than it did teachers hired from abroad. The payback however has yet to be given.

Ching said the ISM would not be financially hard-hit if it paid back its teachers, as the school earned an average of $18 million per year. ISM has roughly 1,700 students paying between $10,000 to $14,000 per school year Ching said.

The ISM administration used to follow a "two-tier" salary structure that gave higher wages to foreign hirees. After the 2000 Supreme Court decision favoring the ISAE, the school adopted an equal pay system for both local and foreign hirees but said this only covered future pay.

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Speeding bus rams bus on Edsa, 27 hurt

By DJ Yap

A SPEEDING bus rammed into another bus, then hit two other taxis along Edsa before midnight Saturday in Quezon City, causing injuries to at least 27 passengers.

A Nova Transport bus driven by Charlito Rabanos, 34, was trying to overtake another vehicle when it lost control, slamming into a BCB Transport bus in front of Gate 3 of Camp Aguinaldo at 10:45 p.m. along the northbound lane, traffic investigators said.

The impact sent the Nova bus, with plate number TWL-713, rearing back into a taxi, which also slammed into another taxi, the investigators said.

Most of the injured were passengers of the Nova bus. They sustained wounds from glass fragments from the shattered windshield and front part of the bus. Five passengers from the other bus were also hurt.

Rabanos sustained the most serious wounds in the torso, and, possibly fractures in the leg, investigators said.

Some of the injured were rushed to the Quezon City General Hospital, while others were taken to the East Avenue Medical Center and Quirino Memorial Hospital.

The BCB bus driver was identified as Romeo Aggabao, 51. The taxi drivers were Reynaldo Saringo, 41, and Ronald Tobias, 29.

The investigators said the taxis had minor damages, while the Nova bus' front portion was wrecked. On the other hand, the BCB bus' rear was also smashed, Maano said.

One of the Nova passengers was Dario Refugio, 48, an MMDA traffic enforcer. He told investigators that Rabanos was overspeeding, and had allegedly engaged another vehicle in a race of sorts ("*gitgitan*") before crashing into the bus in front.

METROBRIEFS

Actor in accident

TELEVISION actor Bernard Palanca figured in a traffic accident in San Juan early yesterday morning. Initial reports from the San Juan Traffic said Palanca, 29, was on the Greenhills-bound lane on Ortigas Avenue when his Nissan X-trail collided with a Nissan Cefiro which was making a u-turn in the corner of Connecticut Street at around 5 a.m. Police said Palanca's vehicle was a total wreck but the actor sustained only minor injuries. He was brought to the San Juan Medical Center for treatment. His license and the license of the other driver, whom police identified as Kenneth Tan, 35, were confiscated by the police. Palanca is an ABS-CBN Talent and a member of the male group "The Hunks." He is a mainstay of the sitcom "Bora" also aired on ABS-CBN. ***Edson Tandoc Jr.***

Major loses van

AN ARMY major has lost a van to car thieves in Quezon City between Saturday and yesterday morning. Major Domingo Gobway, 37, told police he parked the red Nissan Urvan Escapade at 68-D Alley 2, Road 8 in Project 6 at 3 p.m. on Saturday. But the van was discovered gone at 3 a.m. yesterday, according to a report from Baler Police. Investigators described the van as a 2001 model with plate number XBG-566. Gobway is detailed with the Philippine Army headquarters support group in Fort Bonifacio, police said. ***DJ Yap***

Unauthorized agent

AGENTS of the National Bureau of Investigation have arrested a man inside a mall in Manila for allegedly defrauding a brokerage firm representative through misrepresentation. The suspect, identified as Ryan Arellano, had allegedly tried to lure Harmy Lato-Pasco to avail of a business loan worth P500,000 from the PS Bank Herrera branch in Makati City. The NBI said Arellano had claimed to be an authorized agent with legitimate connections to the bank. Arellano then asked P50,000 from Pasco, saying the amount would facilitate the processing of the loan. But Pasco got suspicious and called up the bank to inquire about the loan. When the bank officers denied that they had received a loan application from her, Pasco immediately sought NBI assitance. Arellano was arrested last week while receiving marked money from Pasco inside Robinson's Place in Ermita, Manila during an entrapment operation. ***Margaux Ortiz***

ALL-PINOY FINALE

Nationals nip Aces, top Brunei tilt

90 days to go before the 23rd SEA Games

BRUNEI—National coach Chot Reyes issued an appeal to the country's basketball leaders after proving his point with his first international title.

The RP-San Miguel Beer squad continued to make strides in its bid to put the country back on the Asian throne as it nipped Alaska Milk, 70-67, Sunday night in the titular match of the 5th Shell Rimula Cup at the National Indoor Stadium.

With the win, Reyes said he hoped the fractured basketball scene back home can be healed,

NATIONALS/ A26

RP golf bets on target —Juvic

RIGHT on target..

Amateur ace Juvic Pagunsan said that preparations of the national golf team seeking to win the Southeast Asian Games gold medal for the second straight time is going according to schedule.

"On a scale of zero to 100 percent, we're at 80 percent now," Pagunsan told the INQUIRER in Filipino yesterday. "Everything is falling into place and the players are in high spirits."

Swing guru Bong Lopez is looking over the training of the Nationals, who will seek to repeat as champions when the golf competition in the Games tees off at the exclusive The Country Club in Canlubang in November.

The Nationals are grinding it out like never before, joining tournaments here and abroad to gain the edge on the opposition, which will be rock-solid with the Thais and the Malaysians in the field.

Pagunsan said he did not see the region's top guns in the Singapore Amateurs two weeks ago, where he finished second in individual play and the Philippines won the team title.

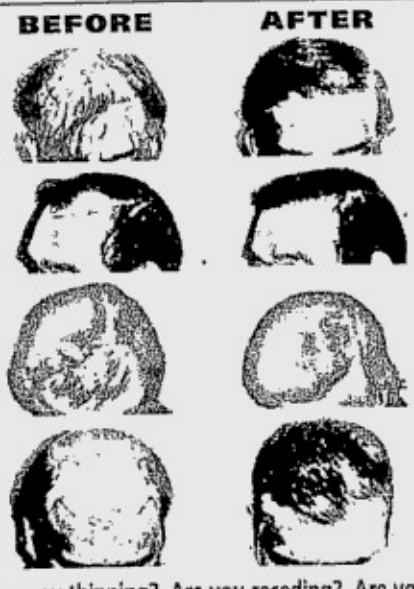
"Thailand and Malaysia are both pretty strong, we all know that," Pagunsan said.

Artemio Murakami, who will try his luck in the lucrative Japanese PGA next week, Michael Bibat, former caddies' champion Jay Bayron, Boyet Saragoza and reigning Philippine Amateur champ Jun Bernis are the other members of the pool.

With Wisut Artjanawat of Thailand turning pro at the start of the year, Pagunsan said Ben Leong of Malaysia could be the biggest threat in the individual competition.

Enrolled in the David Leadbetter Academy in Florida for most of the past three years, Leong showed his mettle by finishing a close second to Artjanawat in the Putra Cup last year.

BEFORE AFTER



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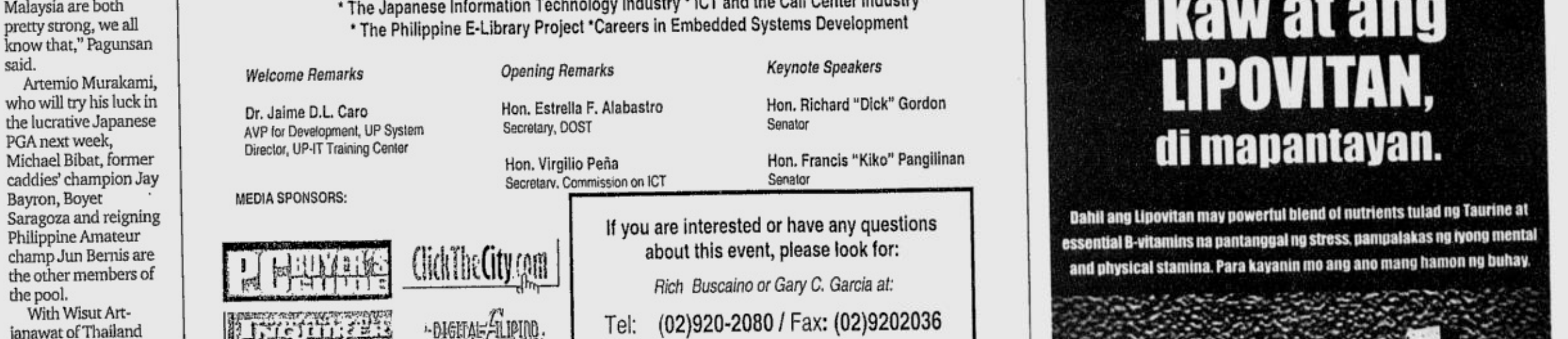

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Nationals nip Aces, top Brunei hoop tilt

From page A25

so that the ban that bars the country from participating in major hoop meets can be lifted.

"I appeal to Mr. Joey Lina and to the leadership of BAP," said Reyes. "Please, *palaruin ninyo po kami*. I don't know what it takes but this team deserves to play because they work hard, play together and will make us proud."

Tournament Most Valuable Player Jayjay Helterbrand drilled a crucial three-pointer in the closing minutes to seal the crown for the Nationals, who took home the $20,000 top prize.

"Give the credit to the players, to the San Miguel Corp. management, especially to Mr. Ramon Ang and PBA commissioner Noli Eala because this is their project," said Reyes.

"This was supposed to be our culminating tournament for the FIBA-Asia Championship in Doha, Qatar. Unfortunately, that won't happen."

The country missed the qualifying for the Fiba-Asia event in Singapore when the Fiba issued a ban following the Philippine Olympic Committee's expulsion of the Basketball Association of the Philippines basically for bungling its role as the national association for the sport.

If the ban is not lifted, the Philippines won't be able to defend even its cage title in the Southeast Asian Games the country will host in November.

Asi Taulava netted 14 points and 11 rebounds while Tony dela Cruz added 12 for the Nationals, who massacred Toshiba Brave Thunders of Japan, 94-66, in the semifinals Saturday to avenge their only loss in the tournament.

The Aces, who lost head coach Tim Cone at the end of the first period as he was thrown out by referee Roberto Ting for continuous complaining, settled for $10,000.

Nevertheless, it was quite an achievement for Alaska, which shocked the SK Knights of Korea, 93-86, in the other semis duel Saturday to arrange the all-RP titular showdown.

"That win by the RP-SMB and Alaska is a big statement game as it showed that RP basketball is back on the Asian map," Reyes stressed.

Despite Cone's ejection, Alaska managed to hang on and even tied the game for the last time at 57-all after a Mike Cortez three-point play.

In the battle for third, the SK Knights salvaged some pride with a 95-82 victory over Toshiba Brave Thunders, whose import, Tom Kleindschmidt, was ejected early in the third period.

The scores:

RP-SMB 70—Taulava 14, Dela Cruz 12, Helterbrand 9, Raymundo 9, Hontiveros 8, Alapag 7, Adducul 4, Ritualo 3, Belasco 2, Williams 2, Reavis 0.

ALASKA 67—McClary 19, Cortez 16, Cablay 11, Carlaso 8, Allado 7, Thoss 4, Alvarez 2, Padilla 0, Hugnatan 0

Quarters: 22-19, 35-37, 51-52, 70-67.

NBC selection whips Hong Kong cagers

HAAD TAI CITY, Thailand—The NBC-Nature's Spring Selection opened its campaign in the 9th Crown Prince Cup invitational basketball tournament with a bang Saturday by whipping Hong Kong, 90-78, at the Jiranakorn indoor gymnasium here.

Six-foot-seven Val Domingo scattered 21 points to lead five other Filipinos in double figures.

Marvin Tundag, Rex Mangubat, Mel Latoreno, Dondon Villamin and Lowell Briones supported Domingo with 11, 11, 10, 10 and 10 points, respectively.

Backed by Nature's Spring, Hapee, Dewfoam, Spring Cooking Oil, Skygo Motorcycles and Sirlitz, the NBC squad erected several double-digit leads before settling for a 49-38 advantage at the turn.

"We didn't have time to scout Hong Kong, so we just told the boys to pressure them and limit their outside shooting," said coaches Al Solis and Jun Noel.

Solis, Noel and their assistant, Laguna Spring's Vic Sanchez, paid tribute to their big guys. "They all stepped up. We just hope we can maintain our form in our games against Singapore, Korea and Thailand," they said.

The scores:

NBC SELECTION 90—Domingo 21, Tunday 11, Mangubat 11, Latoreno 10, Villamin 10, Briones 10, Huelar 8, Almacin 3, Kalaw 2, Larong 2, Daa 2.

HONG KONG 78—Yung 17, Lui 13, Kim 13, Wong Chui 11, Law Man 11, Leung 5, Cheng 4, Kam 4, Chan Cheung 4.

Halftime: 49-38

Coke, Barako sign Raneses, Najorda

By June Navarro

CEBUANO hotshot Neil Raneses and San Sebastian ace Leo Najorda will be joining the crop of rookies in the coming Philippine Basketball Association season.

Selected 11th overall in the second round of the rookie draft, Raneses has signed a two-year contract to play for the Coca-Cola Tigers and will receive close to P3 million outside of the team's standard bonuses, an INQUIRER source said.

Red Bull first-rounder Leo Najorda also secured a two-year pact effective Sept. 1 but player-agent Danny Espiritu said the King Stag has been given permission by the Barakos to play for San Sebastian until the end of the current NCAA season.

The 24-year-old, 6-foot-4 Raneses, a crafty inside operator, promises to be the next big Cebuano attraction after Dondon Hontiveros of San Miguel Beer.

But with Raneses sharing the rotation in the small forward spot with John Arigo, Rob Wainwright and Will Antonio, he will have to give coach Binky Favis and the Tigers quality minutes to prove his worth.

The lean, 190-lb Raneses drew attention when he steered the UV Lancers to third place in the 2003 Champions League along with the 6-foot-6 JR Quiñahan.

Before joining the draft, Raneses saw action for FEU-Magnolia Dairy Ice Cream in the Philippine Basketball League. Quiñahan is still actively playing for Granny Goose Kornets.

Najorda, the 2002 NCAA MVP, will join Red Bull rookies Larry Fonacier and Paolo Bugia, who also got two-year deals.

RANESES: Next big Cebuano

NAJORDA: College MVP

Meanwhile, Sta. Lucia Realty governor Buddy Encarnado is expected to formalize his demand for a lifetime ban on rookie Alex Cabagnot during the PBA Board of Governors' regular monthly meeting on Sept. 5

Cabagnot reportedly left for the United States to finish his physical education degree at the University of Hawaii-Hilo without formally notifying the franchise of his decision.

Encarnado has vowed to throw the book at Cabagnot, this year's second overall pick who disappeared after agreeing to a three-year pact worth P8.5 million.

Based on league rules, PBA Commissioner Noli Eala said Cabagnot will just have to sit it out for a year and could re-apply in the draft the following season.

Additonal sanction on the 6-foot-1 US-bred playmaker would depend on an investigation by the Commissioner's Office following a written complaint from Sta. Lucia Realty.

Espinosa lifts Iloilo over tough Taguig five

ILOILO CITY—Ex-pro Tonyboy Espinosa played brilliantly all-game long while reed-thin slotman Ruel Balgos struck with big baskets in overtime to power the Iloilo Warriors past favored Forward Taguig, 86-83, Saturday in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the University of San Agustin gym here.

Balgos scored four of his 12 points in the extra period and Espinosa sank two free throws in the final 11 seconds after grabbing the ball following his two freethrow misses to seal the fourth win in 11 games for the Warriors of IBL president Robert Uy and strong supporter Gov. Niel Tupas.

Jimboy Robillos scored with 1:38 to go to give Mayor Freddie Tinga's Taguig cagers the lead at 83-82. But Balgos retaliated 29 seconds later to shove the Warriors back on top, 94-83.

Robillos sent the game into overtime with a twinner, 79-79, time down to 30.7 seconds.

The loss dropped Taguig (7-5) into a first-place tie with idle Cavite for the Northern Conference lead in the tournament supported by Panasonic, Spring Cooking Oil, Sulpicio Lines, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Accel, Molten, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz, Dewfoam, Hapee Toothpaste, KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

"After we beat defending champion Tribu (Sugbu), we became more confident," said Iloilo coach John Trompeta. "Tonyboy (Espinosa) is the point guard we really need."

The two teams battled to 11 deadlocks, including at 24 and 45 in the first two quarters.

The Warriors host the Cagayan de Oro Stars at 6 p.m. on Wednesday at the USA gym.

The scores:

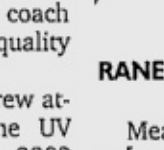
ILOILO 86—Espinosa 13, Sanz 12, Balgos 12, Allado 11, Cantonjos 10, Senlerez 9, Leonida 7, Arceno 6, Poral 4, Penesa 0, Sencil 0, Sina-on 0, Pisuela 0.

TAGUIG 83—Vilar 20, Marucot 18, Robillos 18, Dulay 8, Zablan 6, Sinco 6, Lapinid 5, De Castro 2, Reguera 0, Gonzales 0, Sina-on 0, Dela Rosa 0, Aclon 0.

Quarters: 24-24, 45-45, 67-61, 79-79 (reg.), 86-83 (OT)

Listen, here's what's happening in Magpet

BARE EYE



Recah Trinidad

IF THE Philippines finally lands the elusive gold medal in the Beijing Olympics, an obscure spot in North Cotabato could go down as the place where the great hunt started.

But how come nobody is talking about Magpet?

Because it cannot hold a candle to the provincial capital of Kidapawan when it comes to commerce and traffic?

Magpet may indeed be obscure as M'lang, a quiet tree-lined municipality at the edge of the great Liguasan Marsh whose only claim to fame could be its being the poor place where his schoolteacher parents raised North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol.

Magpet indeed doesn't fit as a launch-off stage for a noble undertaking.

But listen. They are holding the 1st Mindanao Invitational Amateur Boxing Tournament Aug. 27 to 31 in Magpet.

***

The tournament itself doesn't seem to stir excitement because doing it in super towns Davao or GenSan appeared to be the better option.

Practically no mention in the sports section of the countries' major dailies, not a faint plug in any of the big television channels.

The INQUIRER has therefore requested its Cebu-based boxing writer Salven Lagumbay to fly to Magpet.

"Competing teams come from Davao del Norte and Panabo City of Congressman Tonyboy Floirendo," Lagumbay reported yesterday. "Other contingents are Davao City of Mayor Rudy Duterte, Sarangani Province of Gov. Miguel Dominguez and Mayor Joel Lopez, Digos City of Mayor Boy Latasa, Bohol of Gov. Erico Aumentado."

That's not a very big field, but host North Cotabato is fielding a total of three teams.

***

Here's the catch. All eyes will be on the North Cotabato mainstays because, unlike their rivals from the neighboring provinces, these simonpures have undergone special training.

They are the first batch to be initially handled by Cuban coach Honorato Espinosa.

The North Cotabato boxers may not even make it to the upper top half of the medal tally, going by the limited time the Cuban master, who produced his country's first boxing gold in the 1972 Munich Olympics, had looked after them.

Espinosa, in case you were not listening when Gov. Piñol was trying to sell him here, went on to produce a total of 27 gold medals for Cuba in World and Olympic boxing expeditions.

Espinosa has been quietly working here for the past two months, after his services were personally requested by Gov. Piñol from Cuban boxing officials in a trip to Havana last March.

***

Piñol went to Cuba as representative of the League of Provinces of the Philippines whose members, numbering close to 70 governors, have decided to do their share in national sports development.

And, maybe for the first time in the Philippines, the sports program of these provincial heads will lead credence to what would be called a truly relevant grassroots talent discovery and development.

The field in Magpet, mostly raw but pure, should provide substance to the dream of sincere, full-scale grassroots development which most national sports leaders regularly encounter only in empty press releases.

Noisy publicity and talkative leaders often beat national athletes to centerstage.

Maybe this is the reason the involved provincial governors don't seem to mind if they had spent a fortune in fielding teams, with practically no credit or mention in the press.

It might as well go that way: quietly but very effectively.

You see, Señor Espinosa, a silent hard worker, appears certain these obscure efforts should bear golden fruits in the long run.

Espinosa is set to pick his first batch of national trainees from the Magpet meet.

And whether the members of the well-publicized, if often noisy, national sports hierarchy like it or not, these new, pure talents would be powers to reckon with in forthcoming national boxing eliminations.

From Magpet, the road may lead all the way to the Olympics.

BAP lied on true Fiba status, Moying claims

MARTELINO

THE BASKETBALL Association of the Philippines had long hoodwinked the public on the status of the country with the international basketball federation (Fiba) and blatantly refused to admit it had been in arrears despite its receipt of cash assistance from the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Records from the POC indicated that the BAP received $1,000 last June 10, 2004 for the purpose of paying the Fiba annual dues (category C) of a measly $10 and the progressive fee of $250. The BAP is responsible for paying dues of international referees amounting to $50 per official per year and this money should not come from the POC.

A letter from Fiba secretary general Patrick Baumann dated on Aug. 24 acknowledging receipt of $2,460 from the BAP also confirmed that the association had been relegated to "associated member" status by saying that BAP has been "re-affiliated with full rights."

"Mr. Baumann's letter is a clear indication that the Philippines had been associated and hence can only assume full rights after payment of all arrears," said Martelino, a former BAP sec gen who now heads the Philippine Basketball Federation.

The international regulations stipulate that a Fiba member unable to pay its dues for a period of three years is automatically associated and loses the right to participate in official Fiba tournaments.

"If we had been associated prior to the payment made by BAP recently, which can be surmised based on Mr. Baumann's statement, then it only means that when Fiba banned the country last July, the Fiba was merely applying the prohibition on associated members. If this is the case, BAP is guilty of deception of the highest order," Martelino said.

He said records at the POC showed the BAP also received $1,000 in April 2002 to cover for its international federation dues. Before this year, the BAP also obtained a $2,000 financial assistance from Go Teng Kok to pay for previously unpaid Fiba dues.

As per records, he added that the BAP also has a pending $1,600 bill with Fiba Asia, which it tried to pass on to the POC using spurious documents showing that the arrears are with Fiba world and not Fiba Asia.

Balboa shines as Esguerra's coupled imports finish 1-2

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

SUPPRESSED and Ring Tone proved a formidable duo yesterday, securing a 1-2 finish for leading owner-breeder Hermie Esguerra in the 2005 William Inglis-Australia Cup at the Santa Ana Park.

Former apprentice star Louie Balboa sent Suppressed to the lead nearing the home turn, searched for the opposition and found out in the last few strides to the wire that it was the Jesse Guce-ridden Ring Tone, who was coming in to seal the rare finish among coupled entries.

"I'm so happy my horses emerged victorious and I'm also grateful to the Australian government for supporting the local racing industry by staging a prestigious race here like the Inglis Cup," said Esguerra.

As a fast-rising apprentice, Balboa, then known as the "Sapang Palay Kid," was tapped by Esguerra to ride his imported galloper Neat Laurel in the 2004 Philippine Sportswriters Association Cup that clinched a major win for the prominent sportsman-businessman.

"Alam ko, 'pag ikot namin sa rekta na amin na, kaya lumingon ako sa mga kalaban. Buti si Ring Tone ang dumating (I knew we had it when we rounded the homestretch so I looked back at our rivals. It's good Ring Tone came next to us)," said Balboa, now a Class A rider.

Suppressed, a 4-year-old bay filly sired by Xaar out of Stifled, eventually edged Ring Tone by a neck in the 1,600-meter contest. She bagged P250,000 as she rebounded from her third-place finish in the Chino Roces Freedom Cup a week ago.

Ring Tone, the Honour and Glory-Anapalau progeny bought by Esguerra at the renowned Inglis Auction last year, picked up P100,000 after landing her second straight runner-up finish in three outings on local soil.

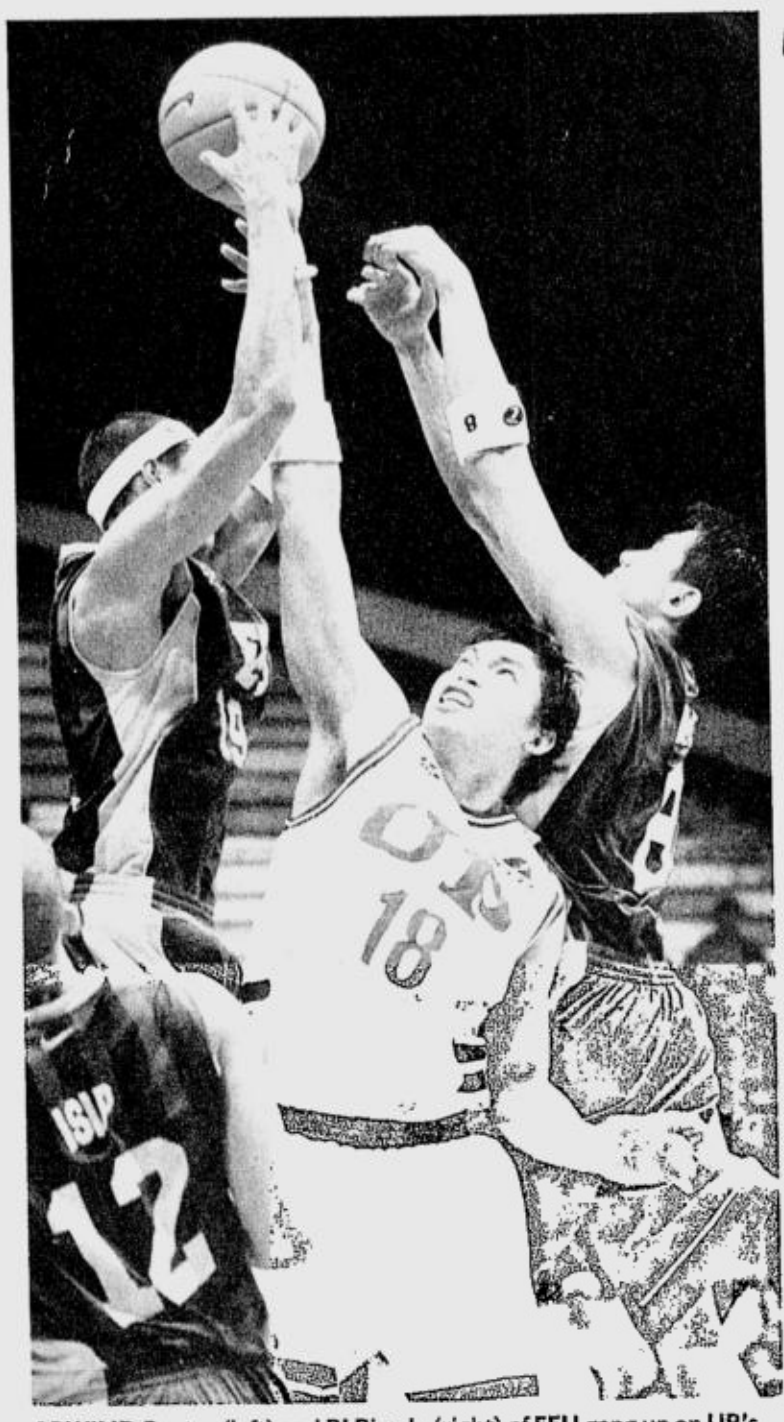
"I think she (Ring Tone) will improve a lot in her next runs," said Esguerra of the bay filly.

Trieste landed third followed by Frosty Bally, Styles, Royal Lantana, Lolita, Guad and Ebony Dane.

The Jose Panlilio Jr.-trained Suppressed, who timed 1 minue 40.6 seconds (24.5-24-24-28), passed Styles effortlessly and opened up a five-length lead at the last bend until Ring Tone came charging hard to wind up a close second.

Earlier in the day, another Esguerra bet, Gung Ho, blasted the field in the Northern Territory Premium race under "El Maestro" Jesus Guce, while Golden Link upset Don Paolo in the Australian Capital Territory Sprint with Jonathan Hernandez on top.

Tams secure Final 4 ticket, halt Maroons



ARWIND Santos (left) and RJ Rizada (right) of FEU gang up on UP's Abby Santos to win the battle for the loose ball. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

GAMES THURSDAY (*Blue Eagle Gym*)
9:30 a.m.—UP vs Adamson (Jrs)
11:30 a.m.—UE vs La Salle (Jrs)
1:30 p.m.—UP vs Adamson (Srs)
4 p.m.—UE vs La Salle (Srs)

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE FAR Eastern U Tamaraws found their outside touch just in time and turned back the pesky University of the Philippines Maroons, 71-63, yesterday to claim the first semifinal slot in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Blue Eagle Gym.

"UP played good defense inside and we had a hard time," said coach Bert Flores. "But we adjusted in the second half. I told them to be ready to shoot outside."

And the FEU veterans certainly responded after the break with Arwind Santos and Jeff Chan leading the assault from beyond the arc.

Santos shot 12 points and grabbed seven rebounds for the Tamaraws, who kept the solo lead at 9-1. Chan chipped in 11 markers.

"There's less pressure now that we're in the Final Four, but of course we're now targeting the twice-to-beat advantage," added Flores.

Earlier, the La Salle Archers outclassed the National University Bulldogs, 78-54, for a fourth-best 6-4 record.

The defending champions never looked in danger of losing behind team captain Joseph Yeo and JV Casio, who combined for 29 points.

"We showed everybody that we can bounce back and that we never lose our composure," said coach Franz Pumaren after the Archers recovered from a heartbreaking 69-70 setback against the Tamaraws last Sunday.

The Maroons slipped to 5-6, while the Bulldogs are still winless in 10 games.

Francis Barcellano completed a three-point play and Santos, rookie Jonas Villanueva and Chan drilled in three straight triples for the Tamaraws, who surged ahead for good, 68-59, after the Maroons had threatened at 56-53.

In junior play, the Bengals gained a tie for the lead with the Ateneo Eaglets at 8-2 after blasting the Bullpups, 83-39.

The Baby Tamaraws later forged a three-way tie at the top spot by nipping the Junior Maroons, 89-86.

The scores:

First Game (Srs)

LA SALLE 78—Yeo 16, Casio 13, Aquino 9, Tang 7, Cabatu 6, Benitez 6, Maierhofer 4, Barua 4, Araña 4, Cua 3, Villanueva 2, Rivera 2, Co 2, Mangahas 0.

NU 54—Asoro 24, Salvado 6, D. Catamora 5, Tungcul 4, Malcontento 4, Sanchez 3, Jahnke 3, C. Catamora 3, Flor 2, Lingao-Lingao 0, Fernandez 0.

Quarters: 14-10, 40-22, 62-39, 78-54

Second Game (Srs)

FEU 71—Santos 12, Chan 11, Villanueva 8, Saldua 8, Adolfo 8, Rizad 6, Isip 6, Fernandez 5, Barcellano 5, Mangahas 2, Nietes 0, Flores 0, Dela Cruz 0.

UP 63—Cruz 16, Epres 12,Doruelo 10, Santos 7, Gavino 7, David 7, Ferrer 4, Vainio 0, Quebral 0, Padolina 0, Buyco 0

Quarters: 11-12, 26-26, 54-47, 71-63.

Santo Tomas netters bag Adidas collegiate crown

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas upset top seed Polytechnic University of the Philippines, 2-0, over the weekend to bag the collegiate men's team championship of the Adidas Tennis Challenge 2005 at the UP-Diliman Tennis Club courts in Quezon City.

Maclean Barraquias outclassed Elbert Anasta, 8-4, to give the Tigers, the defending UAAP titlists, the first point.

The towering Barraquias then paired with Jordan Cimafranca to pull off a pulsating 8-6 victory over Anasta and Iss Sabas for the Santo Tomas clincher in the tournament organized by CTW and supported by Milo, Globe Gentext and Snickers.

In high school boys' play, San Beda College edged Ateneo, 2-1, to clinch the crown.

College of St. Benilde and De La Salle-Zobel shared the limelight with UST and San Beda.

The Lady Blazers thrashed Santo Tomas, 2-0, for the collegiate women's championship, while DLSZ downed Colegio San Agustin for the high school girls' diadem.

NCAA CAGING

Also-rans try to bow out in style

THE ALSO-RANS try to end their NCAA basketball season on a winning note today.

The University of Perpetual Help and the St. Benilde Blazers will dispute fifth place at 4 p.m., after the battle of tailenders between the San Beda Lions and Jose Rizal U Bombers at 1 p.m. today at the Cuneta Astrodome.

"We want to finish the season on a high gear," said Blazers coach Caloy Garcia.

The San Sebastian Stags completed the semifinal cast last Friday, joining the league-leading Letran Knights, the defending champion Philippine Christian U Dolphins and the Mapua Cardinals in the Final Four.

STANDINGS	W	L
Letran	11	1
PCU	9	3
Mapua	8	4
SSC	7	5
Perpetual	5	8
St. Benilde	5	8
San Beda	3	10
JRU	2	11

GAMES TODAY
(*Cuneta Astrodome*)
11:30 a.m.—San Beda vs JRU (Jrs)
1 p.m.—San Beda vs JRU (Srs)
2:30 p.m.—Perpetual vs St. Benilde (Jrs)
4 p.m.—Perpetual vs St. Benilde (Srs)

Only the Knights, though, have secured the twice-to-beat advantage in the semifinal round.

After scoring back-to-back wins, the Altas and the Blazers had a chance to forge a playoff for the fourth spot, but the Stags crushed their hopes by stunning the Dolphins, 81-75, last Friday.

"We're not in control of things but we're still hoping for a win on Monday," said coach Bai Cristobal, whose Altas failed to reach the Final Four after a big runner-up finish last season.

With new coach Koy Banal, the young Lions pulled off two straight shockers against the Dolphins and the Stags before collapsing in their next four games.

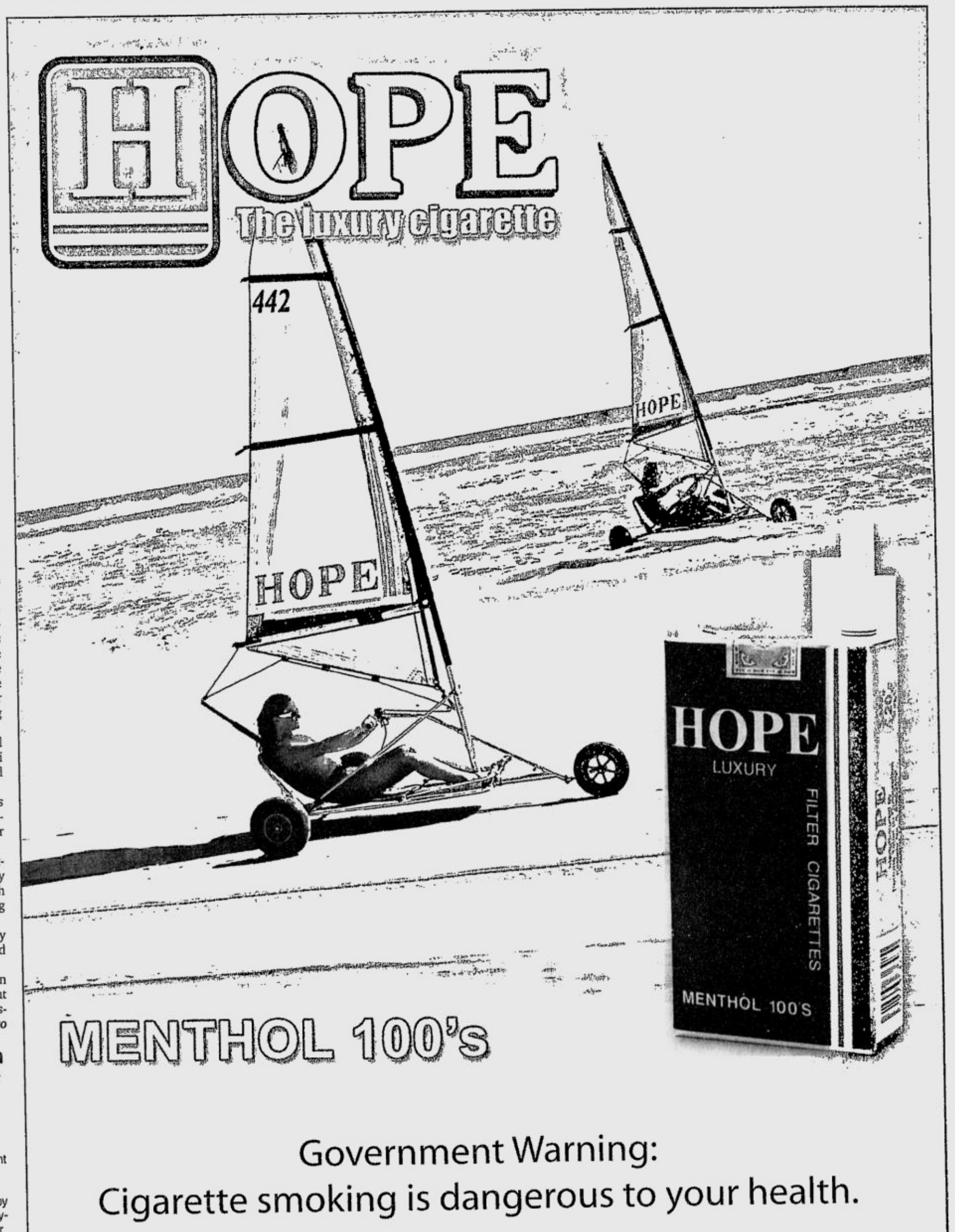
Meanwhile, the NCAA management committee will decide today on a recommendation by commissioner Joe Lipa to suspend PCU coach Junel Baculi for unsportsmanlike conduct during the Dolphins' 81-85 loss to the Stags.

Baculi was caught on television flashing a dirty finger after Dolphin Carlos Cecilia was slapped with an offensive foul late in the third quarter.

The Dolphins, who are vying to strengthen their hold of second spot and the twice-to-beat advantage, will battle the Cardinals on Wednesday and the Knights on Friday. *Jasmine W. Payo*

SEAG readiness up at Forum

THE PREPARATIONS being undertaken for the country's hosting of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games will again be the focus of discussion in tomorrow's session of the PSA Forum at the main function room of the Pantalan Restaurant in Manila. Harry Angping, technical committee head of the Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) and president of the country's softball association, talks about the matter in the public sports program aired live from 10:30 a.m. over dzSR Sports Radio and sponsored by Red Bull, Circure, Supermax, Pagcor and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza. Joining Angping as guests are former sports commissioner Cynthia Carrion, and officials of the forthcoming NCAA-South led by Dr. Karen Tamayo, Roberto Tamayo and Honorato Castigador.



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Davenport beats Mauresmo for Pilot Pen tennis crown

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut—Lindsay Davenport won the Pilot Pen championship Saturday, defeating Amelie Mauresmo of France, 6-4, 6-4, after missing nearly two months with a back injury.

Davenport, who was using the Pilot Pen as a tuneup for the US Open that begins Monday, showed few signs of inactivity, winning the tournament without losing a set. It was Davenport's first title in New Haven, where she had lost four times in the final—three times to Venus Williams and once to Jennifer Capriati.

"That was a big test for my back," Davenport said. "It was really important just to play some matches and hopefully get the rust out of my game. Obviously, to win the tournament and going into New York with that under my belt is a great feeling."

Though her appearance in the final guaranteed she'll reclaim the world's No. 1 spot from Russia's Maria Sharapova on Monday, Davenport will be seeded second at the US Open because the draw was set this week.

James Blake, who grew up in nearby Fairield, will face Spain's Feliciano Lopez in the men's championship Sunday. Blake endured a close match with several rain delays to beat Romania's Victor Hanescu, 7-6 (4), 6-7 (3), 6-1. *AP*

WITH a mix of glamour and gr
Pen champ Lindsay Davenport
(left), Amelie Mauresmo (midd
expected to grab a lot of atten

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US OPEN

Gals spotl

NEW YORK—Maria Sharapo
past few days, unveiling he
the diamond-encrusted wat
show appearances and mod

Serena Williams, meanwhile, made a TV appearance, too, and gave a sneak peek of her new lip gloss, which won't even be available until next spring.

All that, and the US Open hasn't yet started.

"Obviously they're more sexy, let's say, they show more skin, all these sorts of things, and they talk more about that than actually their forehand and backhand. We've been asked much more about, 'What's your preparation?' 'How's your backhand doing?'" said Roger Federer, who does have his own cosmetics line.

Make no mistake, though, the women have the ground strokes to go with their glitz.

While Federer is the odds-on favorite on the men's side, the women's tournament is wide open. Sharapova. Williams. Her big sister. Venus. Lindsay Davenport. Kim Clijsters. Amelie Mau-

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VALIANT 2:00 / 4:10 / 6:20 / 8:30	SKELETON KEY 12:20 / 2:35 / 4:50 / 7:05 / 9:20
THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE 1:35 / 4:10 / 6:45 / 9:20	THE GREAT RAID 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00
SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS 1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20	MUST LOVE DOGS 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 1:00 / 3.30 / 6.00 / 8.30	BEWITCHED 2.00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00

ALI MALL CINEMAS

1 THE GREAT RAID 11:30 / 2:20 / 5:10 / 8:00	4 VALIANT 1:30 / 3:40 / 5:50 / 8:00
2 THE LONGEST YARD 12:35 / 3:05 / 5:35 / 8:05	5 D' ANOTHERS 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
3 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE 12:50 / 3.25 / 6.00 / 8.35	DOLBY DIGITAL THX SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

SYMPHONY OF THE HEART- GARY V *September 2, Friday 8pm*	ADIDAS ASIAN STREETBALL FINALS 2005 *Sep.3, Sat. 10am - 5pm & Sep 4, Sun 9am - 5pm*
NCAA CHEERING COMPETITION *September 7, Wednesday 2pm*	THE CASCADES ENCORE *September 9 Friday 8pm*

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Creame up by 1

DUBLIN, Ohio—Despite cl
with two bogeys, Paula Cre
moved closer to clinching U
GA Tour rookie of the year
ors by shooting a 6-under 6
urday to take a one-stroke
after three rounds at the We
Championship for Children.

Creamer, who won the Sy
and Evian tournaments e
this year, can lock up the r
title with a win. That would
her an insurmountable lead
Meena Lee in the points st
ings that determine the awa

The 19-year-old was at 1
der 200 after three rounds a
tan Fields Golf Club, one sh
front of Cristie Kerr and
Soo-yun.

Kerr matched Creamer's
while Kang shot a 69.

MTRCB RATING PG13 NOW SHOWING
A SPINE-CHILLING EXPERIENCE WITH THE SUPERNATURAL.
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oundstrokes, the likes of Pilot (top photo), Maria Sharapova lle) and Serena Williams are tion in the US Open.

take light

va was all over New York the new perfume, showing off h she designed, making TV ling her latest tennis dress.

resmo. Justine Henin-Hardenne. Defending champion Svetlana Kuznetsova. Any of them could win it, and there are others who could make things interesting.

"That makes it tougher, but that's what it's all about," said Sharapova, who will play one of the featured night matches when the tournament begins Monday.

"That's why we're here, for the competition. That's why I'm here. I love it when it gets tough. Fourth round, quarterfinal, you're playing against a tough opponent.

"The winner of the whole thing has to beat a lot of top players," she added.

Serena Williams said she's feeling better than she has in months, too. The two-time Open winner missed the French with a left ankle injury, and hasn't done much since. She went to Wimbledon out of shape and lost in the third round. *AP*

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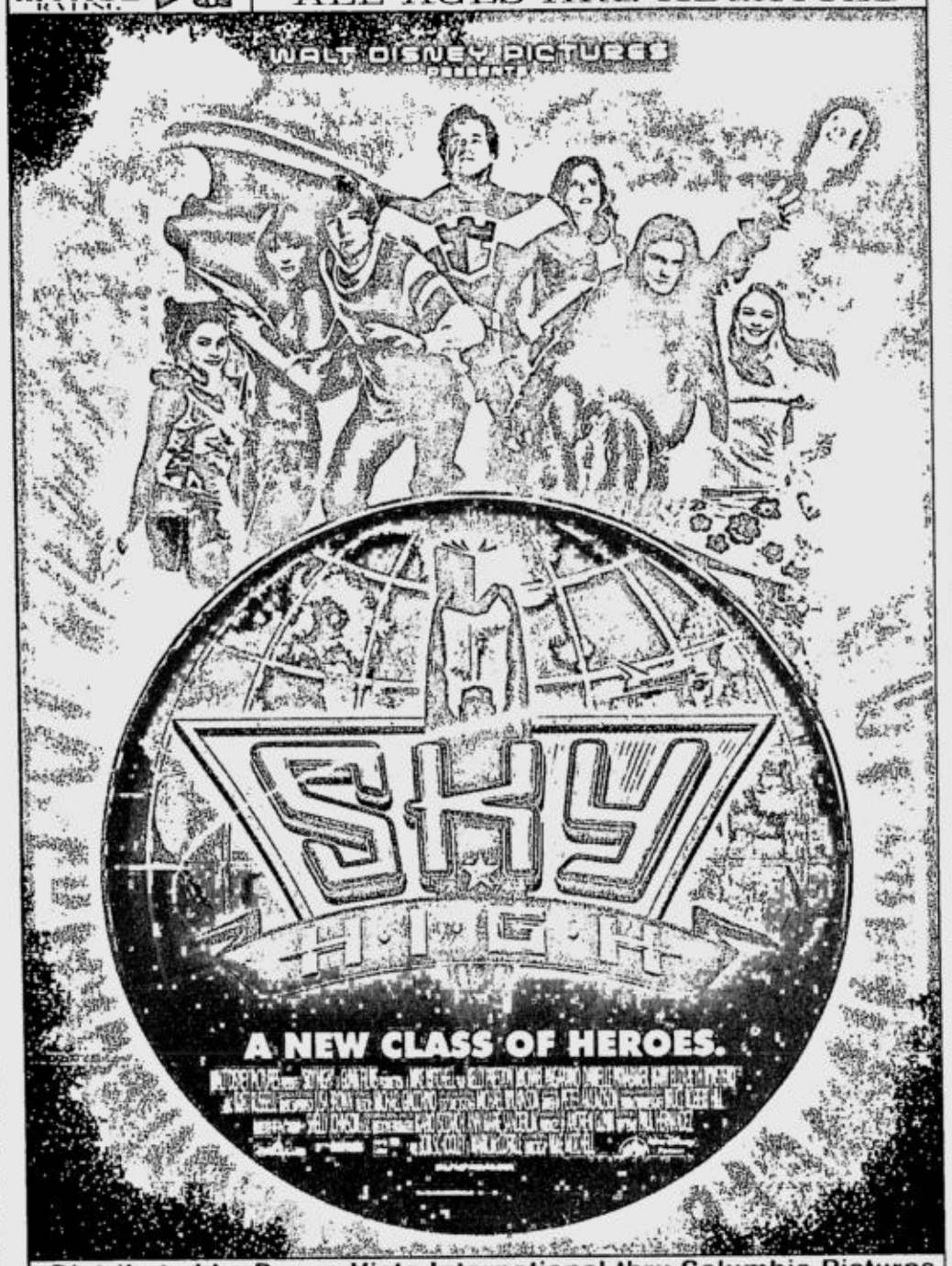

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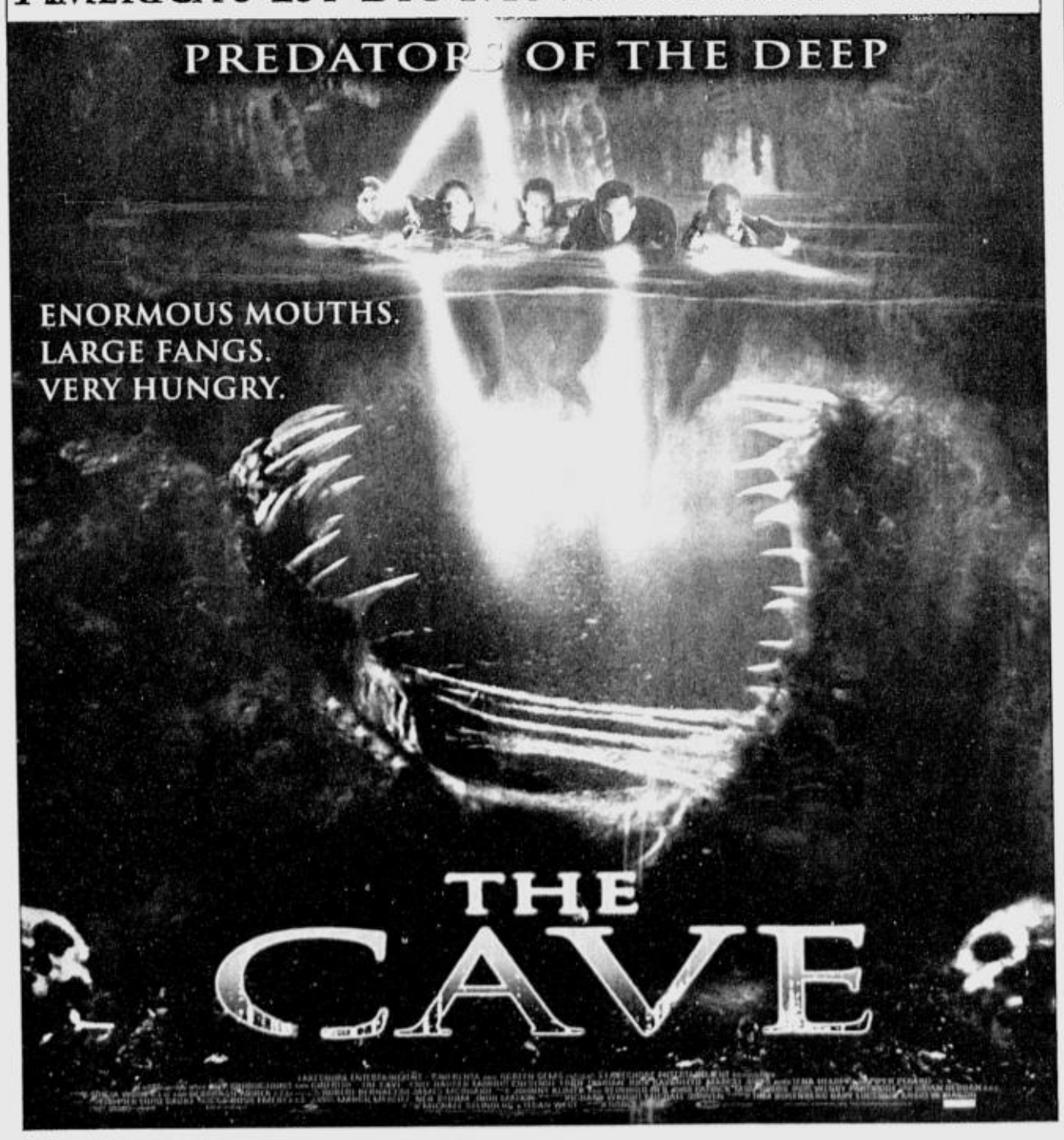
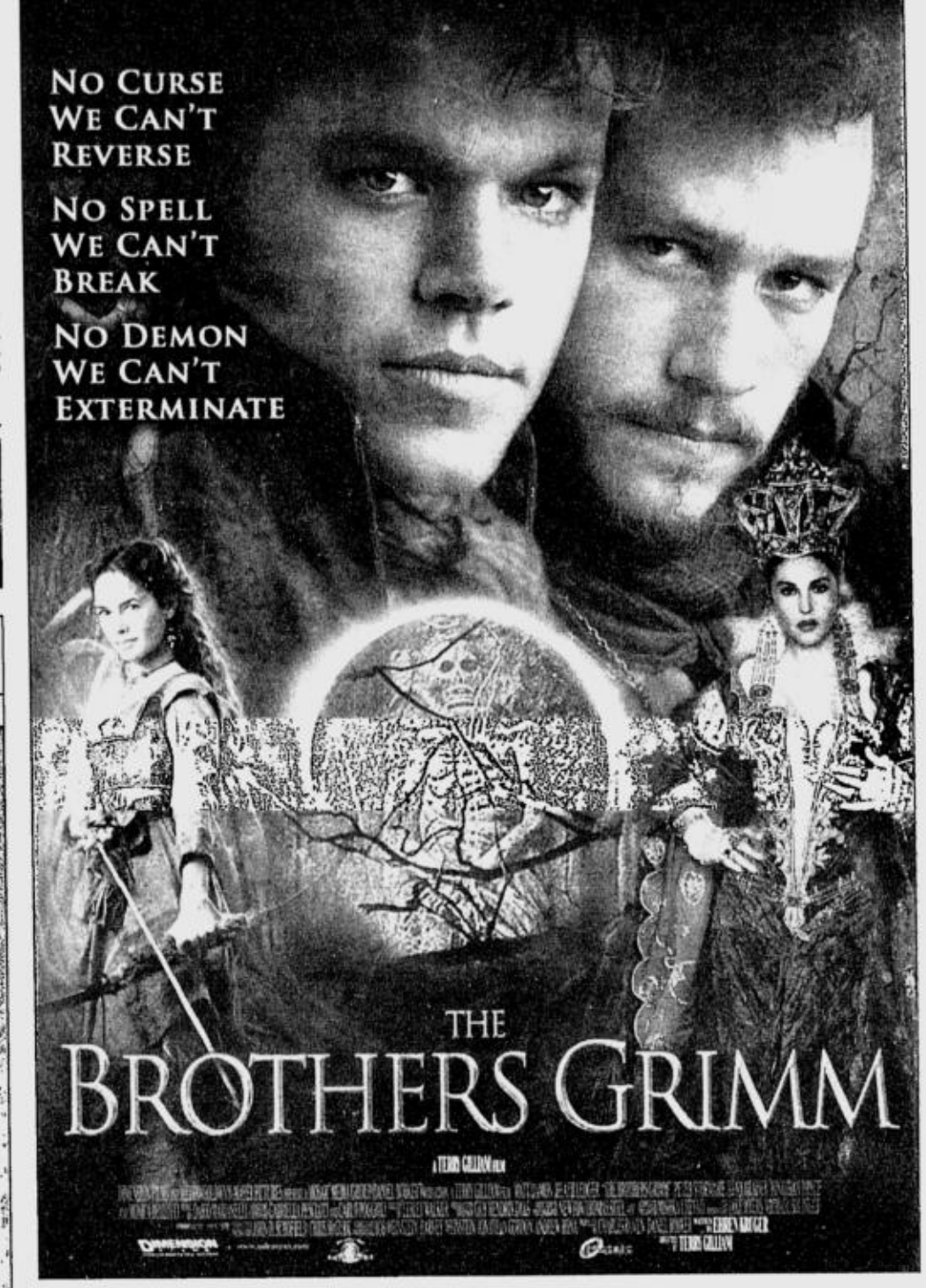


OPENS AUGUST 31



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FOR GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-8976

1 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
01:55FS/02:25MF/04:35/06:45
08:25FS/09:00LMF/10:40END

2 LONGEST YARD
12:50FS/01:20MF/03:50/06:20
08:20LFS/09:00LFS/10:55END

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1 BEWITCHED
12:50FS/01:06MF/03:12/05:18/07:24
09:05FS/09:30LMF/11:10END

2 SKELETON KEY
12:50FS/01:06MF/03:12/05:18/07:24
09:10FS/09:30LMF/11:15END

3 WEDDING CRASHERS
12:00FS/12:18MF/02:36/04:54/07:12
09:07LFS/09:30LFS/11:25END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 THE GREAT RAID
5 EVIL EYES
6 SKELETON KEY
7 D' ANOTHERS
8 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
9 MUST LOVE DOGS
10 LONGEST YARD
11 VALIANT
12 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
BEWITCHED
MUST LOVE DOGS
4 THE GREAT RAID
5 EVIL EYES
6 D' ANOTHERS
7 LONGEST YARD
8 VALIANT
9 SKELETON KEY
10 STEALTH
11 THE EYE INFINITY
12 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR

SM NORTH EDSA
LONGEST YARD
SKELETON KEY
3 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
4 D' ANOTHERS
MUST LOVE DOGS
6 THE GREAT RAID
SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
8 VALIANT

SM CITY STA MESA
LONGEST YARD
2 SKELETON KEY
VALIANT
4 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
5 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
D' ANOTHERS
THE GREAT RAID
8 MUST LOVE DOGS
EVIL EYES
10 BEWITCHED

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 LONGEST YARD
2 VALIANT
3 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
4 SKELETON KEY
5 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
THE GREAT RAID
D' ANOTHERS
8 EVIL EYES
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
10 BEWITCHED

SM CITY MANILA
MUST LOVE DOGS
2 SKELETON KEY
SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
4 LONGEST YARD
5 VALIANT
TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
THE EYE INFINITY
8 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
9 THE GREAT RAID
10 D' ANOTHERS
11 EVIL EYES
12 BEWITCHED

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR
2 EVIL EYES
LONGEST YARD
4 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 LONGEST YARD
2 ICE PRINCESS
3 EVIL EYES
4 THE GREAT RAID

SM SAN LAZARO
1 LONGEST YARD
2 SKELETON KEY
3 VALIANT
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 MUST LOVE DOGS
6 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
THE GREAT RAID
2 WEDDING CRASHERS
BEWITCHED
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR
6 PUSANG GALA

SM CITY BACOOR
PUSANG GALA
2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
3 SKELETON KEY
LONGEST YARD
5 THE GREAT RAID
6 D' ANOTHERS
EVIL EYES
8 THE ISLAND

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 SKELETON KEY
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 MUST LOVE DOGS
4 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR

SM CITY LUCENA
STEALTH
2 D' ANOTHERS
CRASH
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SM CITY BAGUIO
WEDDING CRASHERS
2 THE EYE INFINITY
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
ARAHAN

SM CITY MARILAO
WEDDING CRASHERS
BEWITCHED
D' ANOTHERS
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SM CITY BATANGAS
IF ONLY
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 THE MACHINIST

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
BEWITCHED
2 SKELETON KEY
WEDDING CRASHERS
BEWITCHED
5 IF ONLY
6 PUSANG GALA
SHAOLIN vs. EVIL DEAD
D' ANOTHERS
8 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY ILOILO
CRASH
4 RESERVED
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 WEDDING CRASHERS
6 STEALTH
RESERVED
8 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY DAVAO
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 ARAHAN
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 PUSANG GALA
5 BEWITCHED
6 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 ARAHAN
3 WEDDING CRASHERS
4 BEWITCHED

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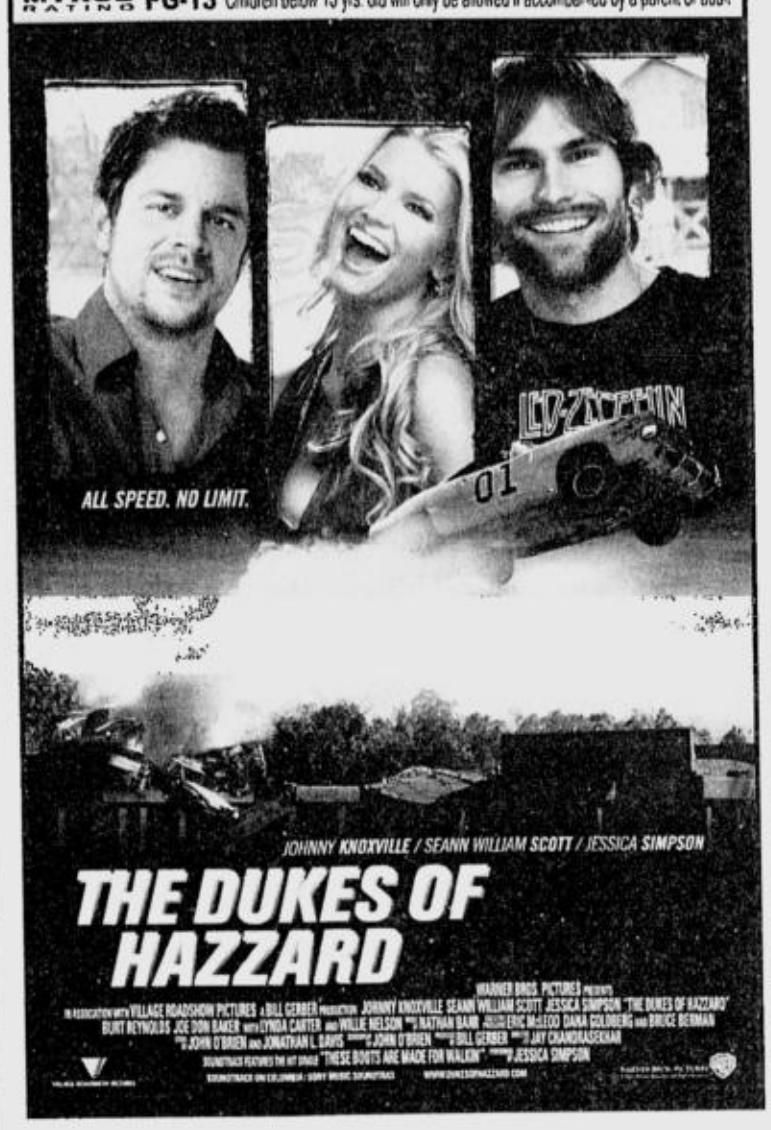

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CINEMA 4
VALIANT GP
10:50, 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:20

CINEMA 5
LONGEST YARD PG13
11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20

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1 THE LONGEST YARD
MTRCB PG-13
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2 VALIANT
MTRCB GP
12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 9:00

3 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
MTRCB R-13
11:55, 2:15, 4:35, 6:55, 9:15

4 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
MTRCB GP
11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

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1 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
12:55, 3:20, 5:45
8:10, 10:35
PG-13

2 VALIANT
1:50, 4:00, 6:10
8:20, 10:30
GP

3 SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS
12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00
GP

4 THE LONGEST YARD
1:05, 3:35, 6:05
8:35, 11:00
PG-13

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MUST LOVE DOGS PG13 12:20,2:40,5:00,7:20,9:40	VALIANT GP 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00	SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15
TRUTH ABOUT LOVE PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05	SKELETON KEY PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40	LONGEST YARD PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15

Bitbit, Surban outkick rivals

MARITES Bitbit and Nino Surban provided high hopes for the Philippines in the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games by finishing strongly in the recent Asian Mountain Bike Championships in Bali, Indonesia.

Bitbit, bronze medalist in the 2003 Vietnam SEA Games, was the best-placed Southeast Asian female rider in the cross-country at sixth place with a time of one hour, 54 minutes and 29 seconds.

Her closest SEAG rivals finished more than four minutes behind her—Thailand's Siraporn Chantarut (1:58.36) at eighth and Chindarat Pornbanchoedkul (2:02.51), ninth, and Indonesia's Kusmawati Yazid (1:44:19), 10th.

Surban, silver medalist in junior cross-country in the 2004 Asians in Puerto Princesa, also nosed out the other SEAG riders—except Thailand's Tawatchai Masae who was seventh with 2:13:41—with a clocking of 2:15:07 that was good for eighth place.

Indons Bandi Sugito (2:15:37) and Dadi Nurcahyadi (2:16:16) were ninth and 10th.

Filipinos Frederick Feliciano (2:17:33) and Eusebio Quinones (2:18:33) figured in a crash and finished 11th and 12th.

Luzon tops 2nd leg of bike series

CABANATUAN CITY—Bernard Luzon and Joel Calderon of the Pagcor Casino Filipino Trade Team made it a 1-2 finish for Nueva Ecija in the elite pro division of the second leg of the Cycling Search Invitational series that ended in front of the old provincial capitol building here Saturday.

Carrying the colors of the nearby San Leonardo town, Luzon and Calderon braved the rainy weather and set a blistering pace all through the 2.1-km course in downtown Cabanatuan.

Luzon pocketed P3,000 for winning the category while Calderon settled for P2,000. Sherwin Diamsay of the Victoria, Tarlac, Cycling Club placed third and got P1,000.

Cabanatuan City Mayor Jay Vergara fired the starting gun in the event sponsored by Pagcor, TCL, Philpost, Partas Transport and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Also gracing the start was city administrator Dr. Roy Ortiz, who was also instrumental in staging the bikefest also sponsored by UCPB Gen, Maximum Electronics and Avia footwear, and sanctioned by the Philippine Cycling Federation.

Jay-R Gelacio, Ralf Arden Fernandez and Onyog dela Vega placed in that order in the "People's Race," a side event of the races organized by Treo Sales and Management Corp. to promote public participation in the sport.

Ninoy Balleser topped the youth class while veteran Marita Lucas ruled the women's race ahead of triathlete Ani de Leon and Lakambini Alto.

Evergreen Rolando Pagnanawon won his second straight elite masters title. Elpidio Untalan was second and Ruel Gerdrano third. The third leg is scheduled in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, on Nov. 5.

SPORTSWATCH

Toribio volley starts Sept. 18

FOURTEEN schools have so far signed up for the fourth FC Toribio Cup high school volleyball tournament which the University of the East is hosting from Sept. 18 at the UE-Recto Gym 5. Registration is ongoing. Interested schools may call 7355471 (local 352) or 7402542, or telefax 7362485 and look for Brenn Perez or Jay Veron. Perez, UE's athletics director, organized the event to honor former UE volleyball coach Francisco Toribio, the winningest UAAP coach with 12 titles. Defending boys' champion UE heads the initial cast. Cannosa Academy-Lipa was runner-up and St. Francis de Assisi College was third in boys' play last year. Ernesto Rondon High School won the girls' title.

Coach E school marks b-day

THE COACH E Basketball School marks its first year with the same personalized approach that has endeared it to kids and teenagers who took complete basketball courses for the last 12 months. "We are sticking to the one-teacher-to-four-students ratio since kids should achieve the maximum level of development in learning the fundamentals. Our philosophy at Coach E is "perfect practice makes perfect," said International Basketball Academy (IBA) president and Coach E School instructor Xavy Nunag of the school backed by Burlington, Proline (Spalding), Accel, Viva Mineral Water, Powerade and Granny Goose. For inquiries, call 6311195 or 0921-7562639, or e-mail iba_phil@yahoo.com.

Bates derby today in Makati

THE ANNUAL Richard L. Bates 7-Stag Derby kicks off today at the Makati Coliseum with more than 80 fights on tap. Among the participants are Eddie Araneta (Liza Galore), former ambassador Danding Cojuangco and Gov. Ito Yñares (Binangonan Balbina), World Slasher champ Boy Marzo (BM Bulalayaw), Riochi Saito (Super Ninja), William Co (Spencer), Mike Romulo (Tonio Mica), Alex Tang (Silver Buck), James Uy (JU Listana), Roger Segismundo (RS Fairview), Mario Medina (MM) Danny King, Eddie Sioson and Bobbit Ples (Rabatitat). The championship sizzles on Wednesday after today's 3-stag elimination round. Six Bates trios will be raffled off to paying patrons during the two-day derby. Interested parties may call 8963545, 8956475 or 8956453. Up next is the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines 5-stag derby on Sept. 5, with the highly anticipated National Cockers Association 7-Stag Derby under way on Sept. 6 and 8.

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1 BEWITCHED • THX
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

2 THE LONGEST YARD
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 THE GREAT RAID
11:40 2:20 5:00 7:40 10:00

4 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

5 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
12:00 2:20 4:50 7:20 9:50

6 VALIANT
1:40 3:40 5:40 7:40 9:40

7 MUST LOVE DOGS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

8 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOALTE FACTORY
12:00 2:15 4:45 7:15 9:45

9 EVIL EYES
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

10 D' ANOTHERS
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

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1 THE LONGEST YARD
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2 EVIL EYES
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3 THE SISITERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50

4 VALIANT
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5 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

6 MUST LOVE DOGS
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

7 THE GREAT RAID
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50

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1 EVIL EYES
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2 THE GREAT RAID
12:35 3:25 6:15 9:05

3 VALIANT
12:35 2:45 4:55 7:05 9:15

4 MUST LOVE DOGS
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5 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

6 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
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7 THE LONGEST YARD
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

8 D' ANOTHERS
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

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2 D' ANOTHERS
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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE	2 MUST LOVE DOGS	3 THX SKELETON KEY 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 BEWITCHED	5 VALIANT	6 THE LONGEST YARD	7 SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 CINEMANILA SNEAK PREVIEW For screening schedule, call 750-4180 to 81		2 THE LONGEST YARD 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX MUST LOVE DOGS 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX THE LONGEST YARD 1:55, 4:15, 6:35, 8:55, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 SISTERHOOD OF THE... 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 VALIANT 2:15, 4:05, 5:55, 7:45, 9:35, 11:25 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE LONGEST YARD		2 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE	
	3 VALIANT	4 SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS	5 MUST LOVE DOGS	
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Kekexili: Mountain Patrol Lu Chuan (China, 2004)
A moving true story about volunteers protecting antelope against poachers in the severe mountains of Tibet. *Don Quixote-Special Award* - Berlin 2005

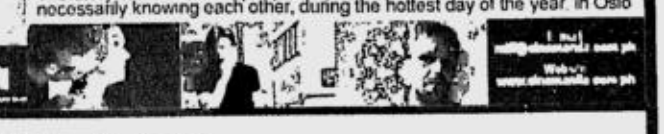
Frozen Land *Aku Louhimies (Finland, 2005)*
Comprises three overlapping stories, the disparate characters of which share a common destiny as a counterfeit banknote touches their lives.
FIPRESCI Prize, Nordic Film Prize, Nordic Vision Award - Goteborg Filmfest 2005
Special Jury Prize - Moscow 2005

Factotum *Bent Hammer (USA/Norway, 2005)*
A jack-of-all-trades wanders around LA trying to live off jobs which don't interfere with his primary interests - women, drinking, gambling and writing. Stars: Matt Dillon, Lili Taylor, Fisher Stevens and Marisa Tomei *Directors Fortnight* - Cannes 2005

Daybreak *Bjorn Runge (Sweden 2003)*
A dark drama about the destructive nature of dishonesty and betrayal.
Blue Angel, Silver Berlin Award - Berlinale 2004

Bishonen *Yonfan (Hong Kong, 1998)*
Hong Kong's star gigolo falls in love with a hunky policeman. A story of false identities and deceit ensues.

Hawaii, Oslo *Erik Poppe (Denmark/Norway 2004)*
The story of a handful of people who cross each other's path without necessarily knowing each other, during the hottest day of the year in Oslo



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SPORTS

Reli, Sevilleno dominant anew in Cebu Milo elims

RUNNERS transform Osmeña Street in Cebu City into a sea of green after the Milo Marathon was flagged off near the Cebu City Sports Center. The Queen City leg drew an event record of 19,320 runners.

CEBU CITY—Rogelio Reli and Christy Sevilleno retained their respective titles yesterday in the Cebu City elimination run of the 29th National Milo Marathon at the Cebu City Sports Complex.

Reli took advantage of the absence of perennial rival Bowen Montecillo to handily rule the men's 21K race in 1 hour, 11 minutes and 34 seconds.

The 25-year-old Armyman, who was beaten by Montecillo in 2003 but got even with the latter here last year, claimed the P10,000 top purse and a new Smart mobile phone.

Montecillo, who now resides in Tarlac, topped the Region III qualifying run in Tarlac City two Sundays ago.

Placing second and third were Joseph Panales (1:12:14) and Roland Montebon (1:12:28).

Sevilleno, meanwhile, claimed her fourth straight crown in the distaff side of this annual foot race held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, adidas, Cebu Pacific, Smart Kid, Department of Tourism, Addict Mobile Prepaid and Powerbar.

Sevilleno completed the 21K course in 1:28:05., with former leg winner Liezl Gitaruelas finishing second in 1:29:21. Merlita Arias was third in 1:36:05.

The top three finishers in the men's and women's 21K races advanced to the 42K National Finals on Oct. 9 in Metro Manila.

The 22-year-old Sevilleno placed second to reigning Milo Marathon queen Stella Mamac-Diaz in the finals last year. But Diaz won't be defending the women's crown because she will represent the country in the 42K event of the Southeast Asian Games in November.

Yesterday's 5K fun run was ruled by Joseph Codino and Joery Lee, while the Kiddies 3K event was topped by Jhanzerick Lumindas and Jovelyn Wisas in the 6-9 age category and Khenard Lumindas and Jenifer Montero in the 10-12 group.

With 19,320 participants, Cebu City broke its record of 17,854 for the most number of entries in a leg of the 29-year-old foot race. Credited for the feat was local race organizer Ricky Ballesteros.

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Search on for PNTC Driver of Year

TOP DRIVERS from all race categories battle among themselves for the first time as the Philippine National Touring Car Championships kicks off the initial phase of its unique 12-leg series beginning next month.

Champions in different racing events such as slalom, karting, drag and rallying are among those vying for the coveted "Philippine Touring Car 2005 Driver of the Year" title.

A grand media launch will be held tomorrow at the Teak Bar and Bistro in Rockwell, Makati, to usher in the race touted as a milestone in local racing.

Top drivers such as Carlos Anton, Mike Potenciano, Kookie and Louis Ramirez, sons of racing icon Pocholo; actor Monching Gutierrez, Menchie Francisco and Loree Uy are just some of the 27 prominent racers who will see action in this maiden venture of Race Fans Inc. and Slipstream TV.

They will be racing for a total of 12 rounds—six qualifying races will be held at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas, and another six (final heat and championship races) at the Subic International Speedway in Olongapo City.

Slipstream TV, the only sports racing show in the country, will cover the event exclusively on Sports Plus (Chan. 33 on SkyCable and Chan. 35 on Home Cable), the same channel that shows the US Nascar Series.

Prominent faces considered among the "Who's Who" in the racing circuit such as Mandy Eduque of the Automobile Association of the Philippines and the legendary Ramirez are among those expected to grace the media launch.

The event is being held in cooperation with AAP, Yokohama, The Philippine Star, Gadgets Magazine, KTC Tools, Meguire's, Autoindustriya.com, and media partner Home Radio 97.9 and DWIZ 882.

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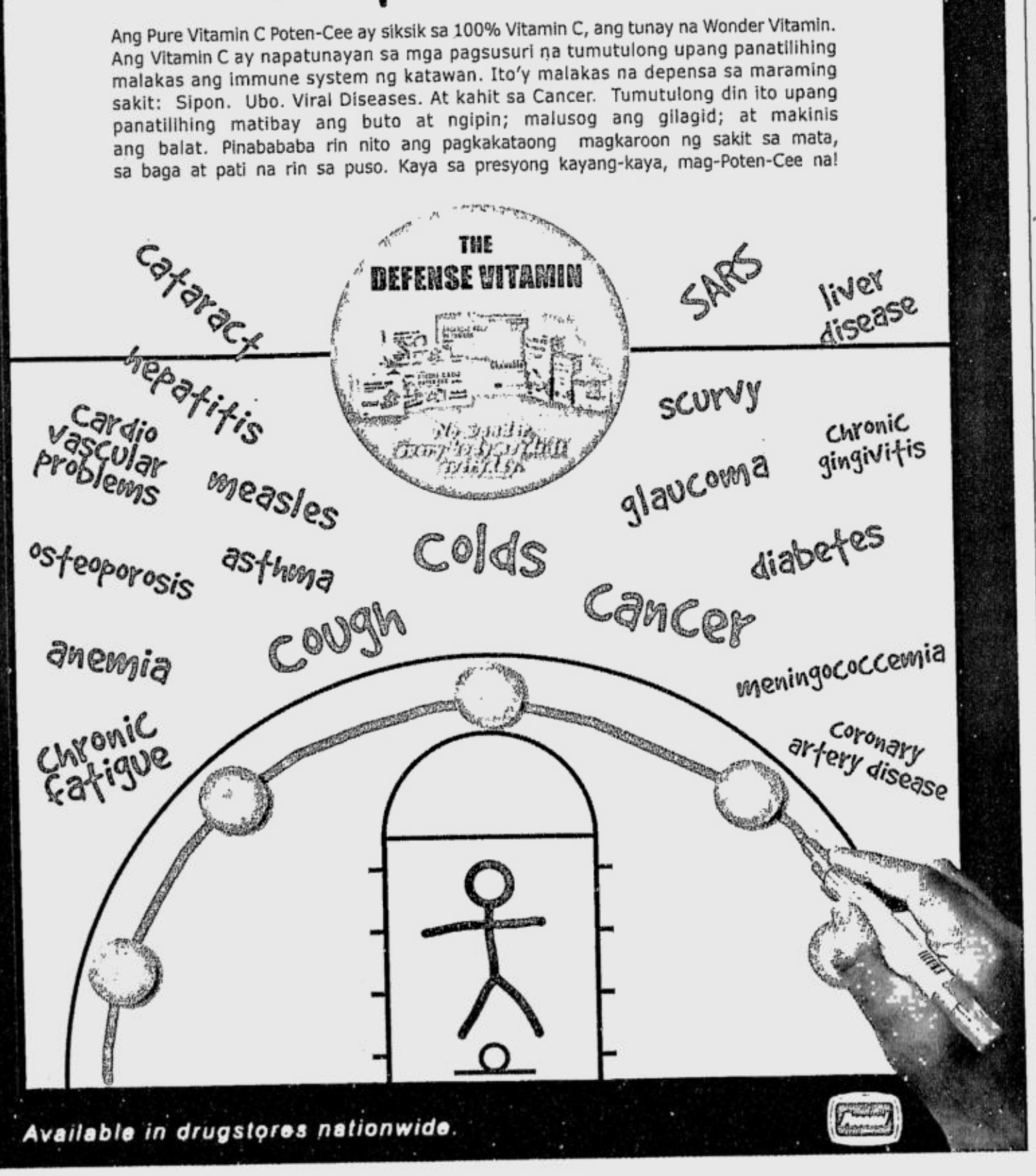

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Cabagnot 'should be taught a lesson'

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

I READ the papers feeling flat. I was deeply disappointed that a promising player like Alex Cabagnot, the No. 2 pick in the recent PBA rookie draft, had condemned himself to nationwide vilification by abandoning negotiations with Sta. Lucia Realty and secretly flying back to Hawaii last Wednesday.

Cabagnot, including his agent, a certain Charlie Dy, should be held accountable for disregarding a commitment not only to Sta. Lucia but also to the Philippine Basketball Association.

"He made a mockery of PBA rules," fumed Sta. Lucia team manager-governor Buddy Encarnado. He stressed that Cabagnot's departure left the Realtors without their rookie draftee, the first time in 30 years that this kind of incident happened in the pro league. "He (Cabagnot) may not decide to play for us now, but we will make sure he won't be able to play basketball in the PBA again."

Touted as another Mark Caguioa, the 6-foot-1 Cabagnot left for Hawaii because he was reportedly unhappy with some portions of the contract offered to him by Sta. Lucia.

However, Encarnado said they had offered Cabagnot a three-year contract, giving the player the maximum salary of P8.5 million, with corresponding increases every year. His agent, who was supposed to represent him, even agreed to that. "But Cabagnot refused to honor the agreement forged with us by his agent. He should be banned. That kid should be taught a lesson."

PBA commissioner Noli Eala said he was awaiting a formal complaint from Sta. Lucia before he could decide on the Cabagnot case. "If there's malice on his (Cabagnot's) intentions, the league will definitely come down hard on him."

***

LOYZAGA TURNS 75 TODAY. Legendary basketball player Carlos Loyzaga marks his 75th birthday today in Australia, where he is now based.

Born on Aug. 29, 1930, to a sports-minded family from San Jose, Mindoro, the Loyzagas formed a basketball team in the town, led by the gangling Caloy, who was then already showing early signs of promise.

From sandlot basketball in Mindoro, Loyzaga moved to the Big City and started his checkered career with the Sta. Mesa Aces in 1942. His teammates included Pablo and Vicente Cuna, Ramon Lopez, former chair of the Letran Sports Hall of Fame; Vicente Ayllon of Insular Life, brothers Bobby and Al Tuason, and Dick Taylor of radio fame. Their coach was Jose "Pepe" Lansang, who also became known, specially to many old timers, as a top referee in the professional PBA league.

Loyzaga finished his elementary education at the P. Burgos elementary school in Sta. Mesa and high school at the National University in 1948.

He had wanted to play for Letran, but he backed out when the coach gave him a cold shoulder. Rely Fajardo, a former Olympian and much-respected coach, took Loyzaga to San Beda where he polished his playing style.

Towering at 6-foot-3, a rarity among local cagers at that time, Loyzaga emerged the greatest Filipino basketball player of all time because of his extraordinary skills as a shooter, rebounder and center. He was voted No. 1 by his peers in the National Basketball Hall of Fame in 1999.

Loyzaga was called "The Big Difference" in his heyday. In the NCAA wars for the coveted Zamora Trophy during the 1950s, San Beda lost its bid to retire the trophy when Loyzaga did not play. But when he came back, San Beda retired the Zamora Trophy after the Red Lions won the NCAA championship in 1951, 1952 and 1955.

After his NCAA days, Loyzaga joined the Elizalde-owned Yco Painters that won an incredible 10 straight National Open crowns and numerous other Micaa titles.

In 1954, he achieved his crowning glory when he sparked the Philippines to third place in the World Basketball Championship in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Loyzaga made his Olympic debut in Helsinki in 1952 and again carried the RP colors in Melbourne in 1956. He missed the Rome Olympics in 1960 due to a wrist injury while playing softball. In the Asian Games, Loyzaga led the Philippines to four consecutive championships (1951 New Delhi, 1954 Manila, 1958 Tokyo and 1962 Jakarta). He also captained the champion RP team in the ABC in 1960 and 1963.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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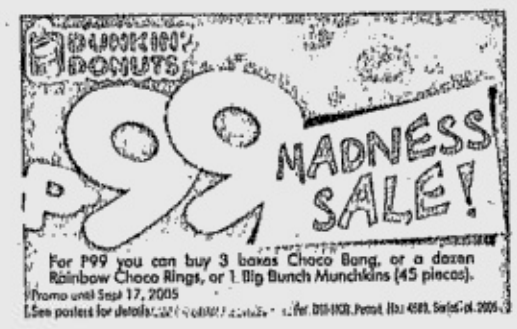


'Til you drop!

By Marinel R. Cruz
Exclusive photos by Erik Arazas

IF JANICE de Belen, Snooky Serna and Liezl Martinez suddenly "disappear" between today and Wednesday, chances are they sneaked out to catch the final stretch of this year's Hong Kong Shopping Festival.

They vowed to do so two months ago when—with their daughters Inah, Samantha and Alyanna—they visited the former British colony for the "Lagalag sa Hong Kong" series of GMA 7's top-rating show "Extra Challenge." The TV program had tied up with the Hong Kong Tourism Board for the series.

One of the challenges, dubbed "Shopper of the Year Contest," pitted the three mother-daughter tandems against one another in budget shopping. Each pair was given HK$500.

Janice said she enjoyed herself. "One thing good about shopping in Hong Kong is, you can haggle for just about anything. Plus, you find a lot of things there that you don't see in Manila."

Liezl agreed: "I found the perfect sun block in Hong Kong. Whenever I go there, I hoard. I also buy some for my friends."

"Extra Challenge" host Ethel Booba ended up planning to put up a boutique back home, and soon. "*Sobrang mura!*" she exclaimed. "I found stores in Sham Shui Po (the equivalent of our Divisoria) that sold stuff at wholesale prices."

During the taping, Snooky made a mental

'TIL/ A2-2

JANICE and daughter Inah take a break from . . . haggling.

Really cool show, man

IT WAS a night filled with action, excitement and fun.

MTV Philippines declared the winners of the MTV Pilipinas 2005 Video Music Awards in possibly the biggest and coolest awards show of the year on Thursday night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Thousands watched the dazzling show helmed by Kokoy Jimenez, with Mel Villena as musical director. *(See sizzling photos next page.)*

Jojo Alejar introduced the opening performers, of Radioactive Sago Project and Junior Kilat, who sang the "Rocky" theme song before launching into their respective hits, "Astro" and "Ako si M16."

REALLY/ A2-2

2 Pinoys shine in Fox's dance contest

CONFERIDO

LACAYANGA

READER Ron Fabros from Portland, Oregon, reports on a new US reality show produced by Fox—"So You Think You Can Dance?"

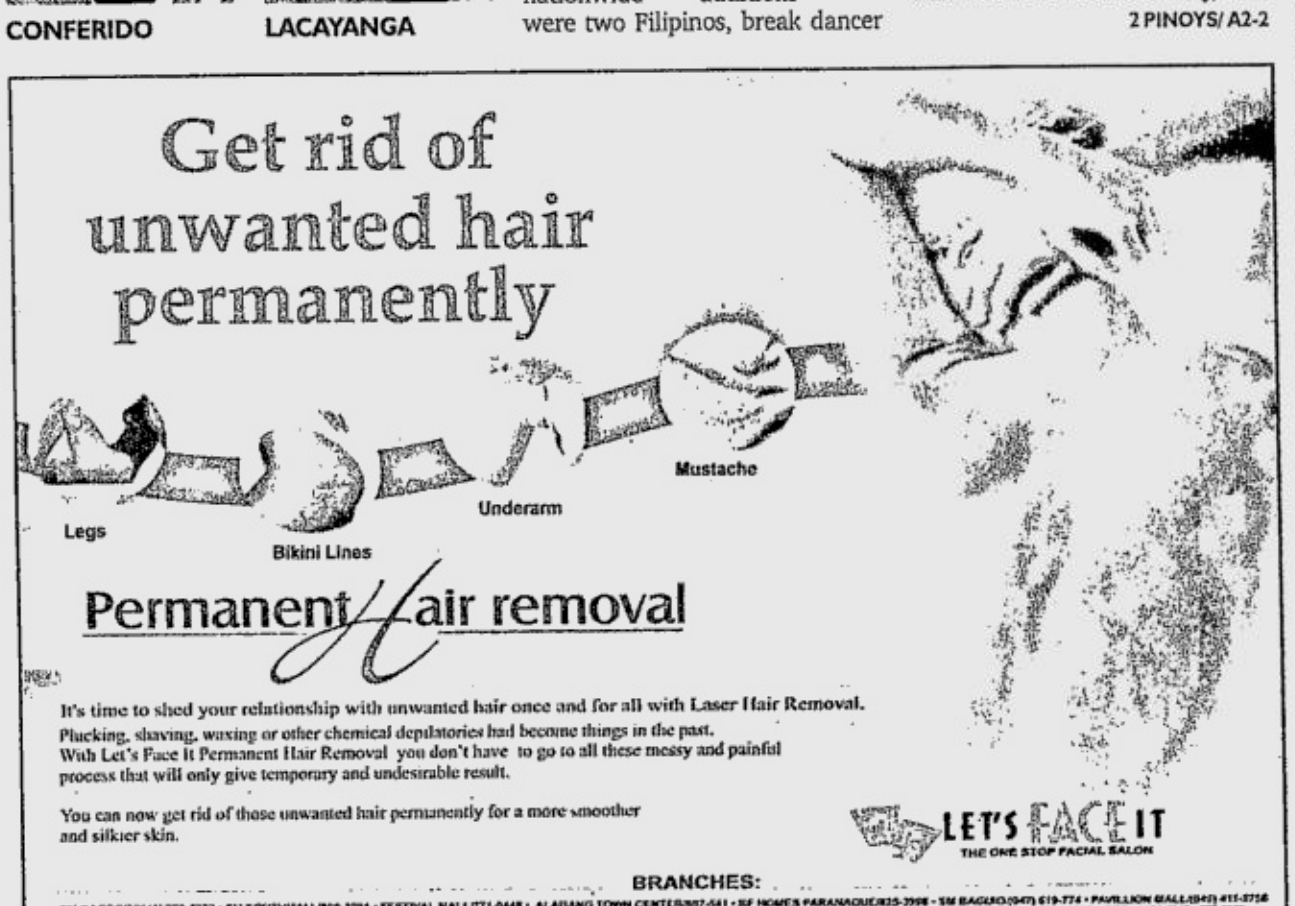
It's a dance version of "American Idol," Ron says. Among the 16 finalists (eight pairs) picked after nationwide auditions were two Filipinos, break dancer Ryan Conferido and jazz dancer Melody Lacayanga.

FLASH!

Every week, the finalists perform with different partners and judges pick the three weakest pairs. Televiewers choose who they want to stay.

According to Ron, Ryan, who never trained formally, is a

2 PINOYS/ A2-2



It's a Disney Party!

Give your child a Goldilocks celebration cake with these Disney-inspired designs. Stroll in the Hundred Acre Woods with Winnie the Pooh, travel into space with Buzz Lightyear, explore life under the sea with Nemo, visit Neverland with Peter Pan and party with Mickey Mouse!

Sa Goldilocks, bawat party may character!

© Disney

Goldilocks
How Thoughtful. How Pinoy.

Where there's smoke, there's show biz sizzle

WHEN **Jennifer Aniston** left **Brad Pitt**, some people speculated that it was because hubby had flirted with **Angelina Jolie**, his co-star in "Mr. and Mrs. Smith." But everyone involved quickly debunked all such speculations, so people looked elsewhere for more "relevant" reasons.

Flash-forward months later to today, and Pitt and Jolie have finally admitted that they have been an item all this while.

Her son now calls him Daddy, and now that "Bradifer" are officially divorced and rumors of a "Bradelina" wedding are in the air, the kid could be calling Brad that on a permanent basis.

Of course, media people covering the movie beat are ticked off that Brad and Angelina pulled the wool over their eyes for so long.

But that's really par for the show biz course, so why the surprise and consternation?

We have to remind ourselves that, on the local and international entertainment scene, the rule of thumb when it comes to juicy rumors is: When there's smoke, there's fire. The report may be exaggerated but, more often than not, there's a kernel of truth at its core.

The show biz scene is rife with examples in this regard: the **Elizabeth Taylor-Eddie Fisher** affair, the **Dolphy-Zsa Zsa** "romantic crisis," **Demi Moore** and **Ashton Kutcher's** "May-October" love, Aga and Janice—etc.! They all started as "smoke," and then blazed into conflagrations that hugged the headlines for a long time.

True, there are completely concocted controversies that are floated to generate excitement in starlets' incipient careers or has-been stars' diminishing performing prospects.

But they're relatively easy to spot: They tend to be hot today, cold as a cadaver tomorrow. Especially the romances or scandals thought up to promote a new movie or recording—once the production has been launched, the rumors self-destruct.

And the fake smoke literally chokes on its own hoke.

MCO Arts Festival

THE MANILA Chamber Orchestra Foundation celebrates its 20th year with its 2005 Arts Festival, from the last week of August to November. It opens on Aug. 31, 7:30 p.m., with a concert featuring the Metro Manila Community Orchestra and soloist **Aima Lopez**, a pianist based in Vienna.

On Sept. 10, the featured performing artists are soprano **Rachel Gerodias** and collaborating pianist **Najib Ismail**. On Sept. 18, "Saludo Filipino 2005" showcases the Dance Concert Company, the Vella C. Damian School of Ballet, and guest artist **Myra Beltran**.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

On Oct. 22, the Kasilag Guitar Quartet will perform.

On Nov. 12, **Eugene Villaluz, Patrice Pacis, Tony Maigue, Butch Roxas** and **Della Besa** are featured in "Past Perfect," a concert of compositions by **Gershwin, Porter** and **Rodgers**. Call 8407000, local 2630.

Cinemanila 2005 unreels Oct. 12-25

THIS year's celebration of the Cinemanila International Film Festival will have "Buhayin ang Pelikulang Pilipino" for its theme, and will thus have a stronger local counterpart. The film fest, which is being sponsored this year by the city of Manila, will also have an added focus on digital films.

Manila Mayor **Lito Atienza**, the festival chair, announced that the first prize winner in the Digital Film competition will get P1.5 million, while the second placer wins P1 million, and the third placer gets P750,000. The makers of the remaining seven entries will each receive P100,000. This year's film fest runs from Oct. 12 to 25.

Festival director is **Tikoy Aguiluz**. Atienza will be assisted in his duties by **Kim Atienza, Emmanuel Sison** and **Gaudencio Nable**. Members of the festival's executive committee are professor **Gigi Alfonso, Ric Camaligan, Wilson Tieng** and **Christine Dayrit**. Call 5281134, e-mail manila_tourism@yahoo.com or miff@cinemanila.com.pl.

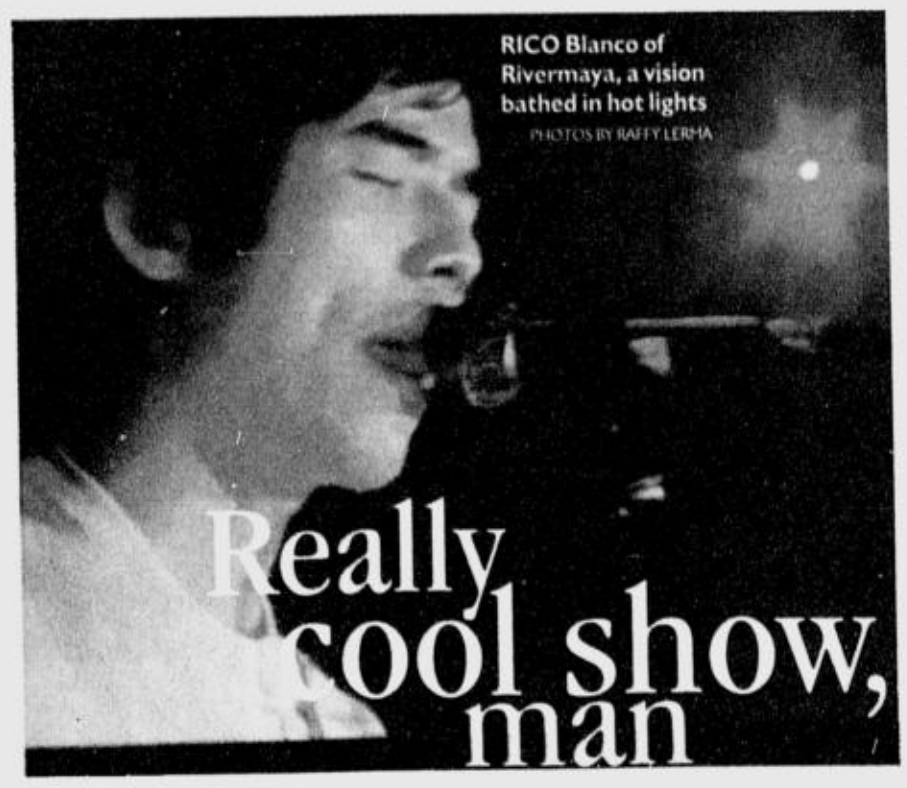
'Footloose' opens Sept. 2

"FOOTLOOSE, the Musical" will be mounted by STAGES from Sept. 2 to 25 at Meralco Theater. Lead performers include **Jay-R, Jonard Yanzon, Carla Martinez, Iya Villania, Gian Magdangal, Nikki Valdez, Maoui David, Audie Gemora, Raul Montessa** and **Ana Agabin**. **Chari Arespacochaga** directs. Call 8919999 or 6317252.

'Frozen'

THE PRESS preview of New Voice Company's latest production, "Frozen," is on Sept. 7 at the Republic of Malate. The award-winning play by **Bryony Lavery** stars **Jenny Jamora, Roselyn Perez** and **Jamie Wilson**, and is directed by **Rito Asilo**.

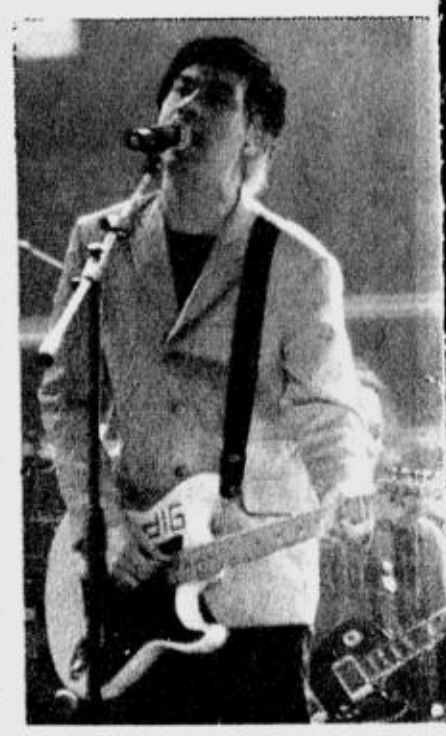
Regular performances are on Sept. 9, 10, 16 and 17. Call 8966695 or 8990630.



RICO Blanco of Rivermaya, a vision bathed in hot lights

PHOTOS BY RAFFY LERMA

Really cool show, man



ELY Buendia still draws applause.

From page A2-1

Epy Quizon, Karylle, and MTV veejay KC Montero gamely took on the duties of hosts, with celebrity guests and presenters, including: MTV veejays Cindy Kurleto, Mariel Rodriguez, Colby Miller, Maike Evers, Claire Olivar, John Joe Joseph, Nicole Fonacier, and Don Puno; Rex Navarrete, Parokya ni Edgar, Richard Gutierrez, Francis Magalona, Michael V, Bianca Gonzalez, Borgy Manotoc, Phoemela Baranda, Ryan Agoncillo, Francine Prieto, Juliana Palermo, Georgina Wilson, Onyok Velasco, Peque Gallaga, the Philippine Boxing Team, and The Late Isabel.

In true MTV style, the show consisted of rare production numbers. Solo acts Nina, Christian Bautista, Rachelle Ann Go and Erik Santos sang a unique medley of one another's hits.

Pop-rock sensations Hale and Cueshe shared the stage to perform "The Day You Said Goodnight" and "Stay," respectively, before launching into After Image's "Next In Line."

Kitchie Nadal was enthusiastically applauded for "Huwag Na Huwag Mong Sasabihin," which she sang with the University of the Asia and the Pacific Chorale.

One of the highlights of the night was a tribute to Gary Valenciano, whom MTV Philippines presented with the first MTV Generations Award ("for a career that . . . spanned decades and broken boundaries, and

> In true MTV fashion, the night was one big production number

for his music which continues to inspire generations of artists"). The tribute was introduced with a medley of Gary V's "Eto Na Naman," "Di Bale Na Lang" and "Huwag Mo Na Sanang Isipin" by Sugarfree, Rivermaya, and Hannah of Session Road. After receiving his award, Gary V launched into a heart-stopping performance of "Hataw Na," with his son, Gabriel, and Powerplay.

In a powerful finale, MTV assembled an all-star band featuring some of the biggest names in Pinoy rock—Ely Buendia of Pupil, Karl Roy of Kapatid, Marc Abaya of Kjwan, Francis Reyes of The Dawn, Niño Avenido of Greyhoundz, Mike Elgar of Rivermaya, and Wendell Garcia of Barbie's Cradle—to perform rock classics "Pagbabalik ng Kwago," "Tao," and "Himig Natin." Pepe Smith joined this number as a surprise guest.

MTV Philippines airs the show on Sept. 11 at 7 p.m., with replays on Sept. 13 at 11 a.m., Sept. 17 at 7 p.m., Sept. 19 at 8 p.m., Sept. 25 at 7 p.m. and Sept. 30 at 12 noon.

The 2005 MTV Pilipinas Red Carpet Special—backstage and red carpet coverage—airs on Sept. 7 at 10 p.m., with replays on Sept. 11 at 6:30 p.m., Sept. 13 at 10:30 a.m. and Sept. 17 at 6:30 p.m.

(Call your cable operator for channel designations. MTV Philippines is also seen on IBC 13.)

RIVERMAYA: Victors

PHOEMELA basks in cheers.

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FRANCIS Reyes, left, jams with Rivermaya guitarist Mike Elgar.

EPY Quizon and KC Montero: Two hams

...and the winners are

Main awards

Favorite New Artist/Group: Hale—"Broken Sonnet"
Favorite Male Artist: Christian Bautista—"Hands to Heaven"
Favorite Female Artist: Rachelle Ann Go—"Love of My Life"
Favorite Song: "Balisong"—Rivermaya
Favorite Group: Rivermaya—"You'll Be Safe Here"
Best Indie Video: "Song No. 9"—Drip
Best Director: RA Rivera for "Astro" by Radioactive Sago Project
Best Video: "Astro"—Radioactive Sago Project

Special awards

MTV Ayos! Award for Best Dance Sequence: "First Day Funk"—Parokya ni Edgar
MTV Ayos! Award for Chart Attack Song of the Year: "Huwag na Huwag Mong Sasabihin"—Kitchie Nadal
MTV Ayos! Best Commercial Video: "Fiestamazing"—Bamboo

BORGY Manotoc and Georgina Wilson

ROUNDUP

Oprah: I'm no snob

CHICAGO—Oprah Winfrey said she is "furious" at allegations that her absence at the recent funeral for Ebony and Jet magazines founder John H. Johnson was a snub of the pioneering black publisher.

A column published Thursday in the Chicago Defender questioned why Winfrey didn't attend Johnson's Aug. 15 funeral in her hometown of Chicago. Many notable black media personalities attended the service.

Defender executive editor Roland Martin wrote of Winfrey's "apparent snub of the man who single-handedly made it possible for people like Oprah to launch their own media companies."

In another column published Friday, Martin quoted Winfrey as telling him in a tense phone conversation, "I am furious at the allegations because it's just not true... and it's unfair."

Winfrey said she was in Hawaii when Johnson died of heart failure on Aug. 8. He was 87. *AP*

Swayze can't escape 'em

TORONTO—Patrick Swayze never knows when "Dirty Dancing" fans will strike.

"It's incredible," says the actor, who played the hip-swinging Johnny Castle in the hit 1987 film. "All of the sudden I'll be pinched on the rear and I'll see this little blue-haired old lady running back to her friends going, 'I did it, Martha. I did it!'"

"Dirty Dancing," in which his bad-boy character teaches teenager Baby (Jennifer Grey) some risque moves, plays endlessly on TV. One UK poll recently named the scene in which he lifts Grey out of the lake during a dance lesson as Hollywood's greatest ever. *AP*

Lyceum screens 'Bikini Open'

ACTRESS Cherrie Pie Picache, film director Jeffrey Jeturian and screenwriter Chris Martinez were guests at the recent Third Annual Media Week at the Lyceum of the Philippines. They attended the screening of their movie, "Bikini Open," and discussed it during an open forum. In photo are, from left, Jeturian, Martinez, Lyceum's Communication and Journalism department chair George Amurao, and Picache.

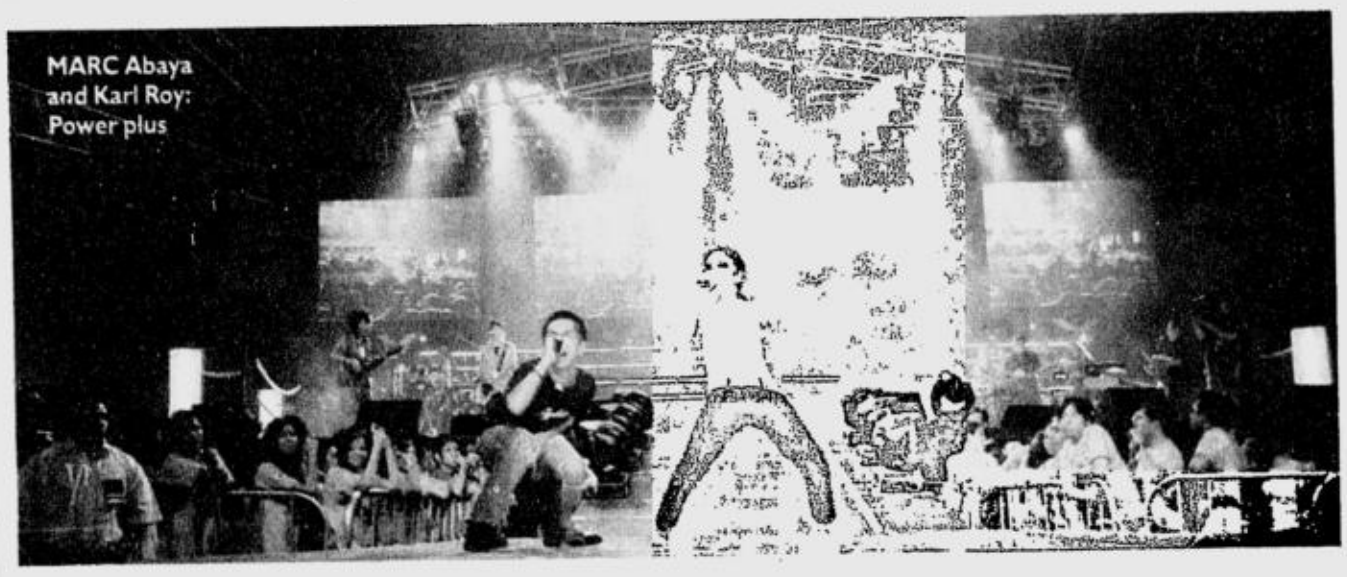
Redford-Newman reunion

NEW YORK—Robert Redford may soon be reunited on screen with Paul Newman but don't expect a sequel to "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" or "The Sting."

"We're talking about it, and the real question is whether he can remember his lines or not," the 68-year-old Redford said in a dig at Newman, who turned 80 this year.

NEWMAN and Redford

Media reports earlier this year suggested the two would pair up in an adaptation of Bill Bryson's travel book "A Walk in the Woods," the story of the author's hike through the American wilderness with a friend. *Reuters*



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Til you drop

From page A2-1

e to go back for the rare ivory l jade pieces she found at the lies' Market in Mong Kok. "I nted to buy them the fist time w them, but we were busy at time," she told INQUIRER Enainment.

thel's co-host, Paolo Benes, made his own mental e. An electronics freak who ns to make short films and umentaries, he could be, at s very moment, fulfilling a mise he made to himself: "I'll back and get myself a cam-."

LIEZL and Alyanna Martinez in Mong Kok Ladies Market

OOKY and Samantha in a mad rush

HOSTS Paolo and Ethel relax

Pinoys hine ...

m page A2-1

wd and judges' favorite. This k and last, he impressed the lience by dancing the mambo l salsa!

Melody is another favorite, says, but her partner in a hip number last week was not nfortable with the dance. The r's fate will be decided this k.

But it was a "truly Filipino mont," Ron enthused, when another contestant danced to the oy rap song "Bebot" by Black d Peas.

For details, visit www.fox.n.)

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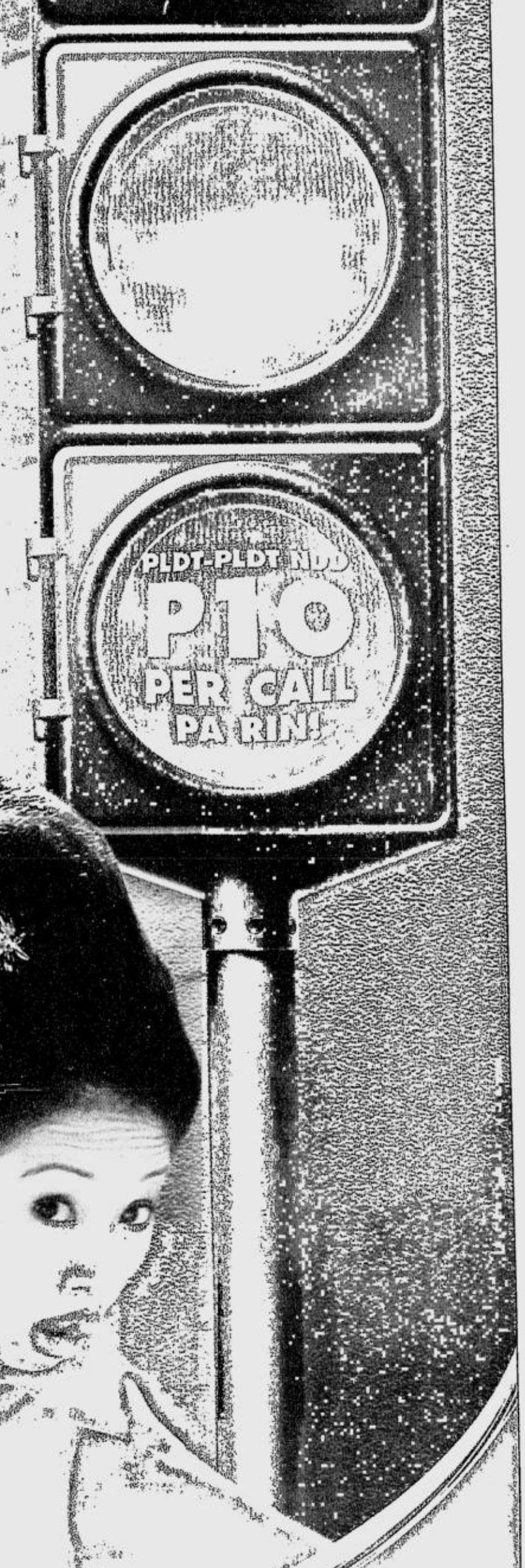

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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No Free Lunch: Deeper in debt /B2

Fiscal plan to falter as growth slows

For Filipinos, life to get tougher before it gets better

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE LOCAL economy will almost certainly miss government growth forecasts this year as record-high petroleum prices crimp consumption and investment.

More importantly, economists in the public and the private sectors are now warning that slower growth will have broader implications on the country's ability to repay its local and foreign obligations.

Simply put, lower economic growth will translate to lower tax collections--and less money with which to pay the government's debts.

'Incredible' GDP forecast

If the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) is to be believed, the value of local economic output—the gross domestic product (GDP)—will grow by 5.3 percent in 2005. This is already sharply lower than last year's GDP growth of 6.4 percent.

Last week, however, Neda economists' projections were doused with cold water at a hearing of the Senate's economic affairs committee.

Committee chair Sen. Manuel Roxas II said the 5.3-percent growth forecast was "incredible," given recent trends in oil prices which have already pushed consumers to cut back on their purchases.

"At best, it will be very difficult to achieve this growth target," he said.

With growth coming in at only 4.6 percent for the first quarter—and with the second quarter expected to have grown between 4.8 and 5.1 percent—Roxas said the economy must grow by a staggering 5.7 percent in the second half for Neda's full-year forecast to be realized.

"No way will this happen," he said. "Maybe these numbers were made for more normal times."

Is it possible for the economy to accelerate by one percentage point higher in the second semester, despite a sluggish first half?

"This would be very unlikely," said economist Cayetano Paderanga Jr., although he admits that it was not entirely impossible.

Paderanga, who headed the Neda in the early 1990s, explained that economic activity in the third quarter usually rises as companies build up inventory in anticipation of the Christmas spending spree.

"But oil prices are very high and we're already done with two months of the third quarter," he said, pointing out that there was so far little evidence of pick up in economic activity. The result? "This will impact on the government's tax collection for this year," he said.

In particular, he expected companies to report significantly lower income taxes once the slowing economy hits their bottom lines. This, in turn, will likely result in a wider budget shortfall, and larger government borrowings here and abroad in order to fund the gap.

Even the central bank is worried. It now believes that economic growth will come in at only 5 percent, at best, by year's end.

Tougher times ahead

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said he believed that the economy was

FISCAL/ B6

INDICATORS

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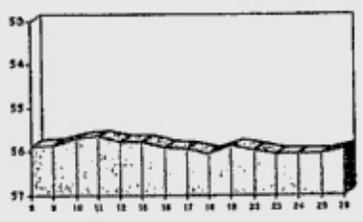

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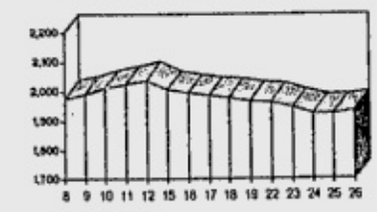
STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Sale of entire gov't stake in SMC seen next year

SMC headquarters in Ortigas PDI PHOTO

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE ARROYO administration will sell the government's 41-percent stake in food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. next year, Finance Undersecretary Gabriel Singson Jr. said.

"I don't think it (San Miguel sale) will happen this year. It still needs court approvals. Perhaps it will (take place) next year," Singson said.

The government holds roughly 41 percent in San Miguel, consisting of shares sequestered by the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) and the stakes of pension funds Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and Social Security System (SSS).

The government block is valued at roughly $2 billion or about P112 billion at current exchange rates.

Singson said that another government asset to be sold included a five-hectare property in Paco, Manila owned by Manila Gas Corp. State investment arm National Development Co. (NDC) will oversee the sale of the property next month.

Another property for sale is a 4.8-hectare lot that used to house the International

SALE/ B4

Investors await VAT decision

THE SUPREME Court's decision whether or not to uphold the expanded value-added tax is expected to dictate where the market will head this week, although the continuing surge in crude oil prices remains a dampener.

"The expected revenue that will be raised from the (VAT) will be among the basis for

INVESTORS/ B4

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Per DTI NCR Permit No.4023, Series of 2005

Local execs tapped for VAT collection

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has deputized provincial, city and municipal treasurers as value added tax collectors, hoping to shore up the national government's revenues by bringing collection efforts down to the local level.

Finance Secretary Margarito "Gary" Teves was scheduled over the weekend to sign a memorandum of agreement between the DOF and the Provincial and City Treasurers Association of the Philippines (Pactap), which is headed by Victor Endriga.

The MOA was supposed to be signed in Davao City during a road show by finance officials. The road show was aimed at briefing people in the provinces about the coverage, impact and essence of the expanded value added tax law (VAT).

Under the MOA, local government treasurers would regularly check on the VAT remittances of business establishments in their localities, and collect the tax on behalf of the national government.

Pactap, which volunteered to the job, said local governments could substantially help raise VAT collection in the national level, given that they are more familiar with how businesses operate in their communities. Local treasurers could help plug lost potential in VAT collection arising from tax evasion, said Endriga, Pactap president and Quezon City treasurer.

He noted that his office has a record of over 65,000 business establishments that are VAT-covered, while the Bureau of Internal Revenue only had 30,000 VAT-remitting firms in its list of businesses in Quezon City.

The Pactap chief said that by tapping local treasurers as human resources to collect VAT, the national government could even increase its collection to a level that might make it afford to do away with the implementation of the VAT law.

The VAT law, the administration's key revenue-raising measure, expanded the coverage of the tax to include oil and electricity, among others.

Also, Pactap has forwarded a request to the national government for the latter to share information on the financial standing of large companies situated in their respective localities. Local government treasurers said they would need the information to pursue their own efforts to collect local taxes from the businesses.

The DOF, when it was still headed by former Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, was said to have second thoughts about deputizing local government treasurers to collect taxes for the national government.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue, an attached agency of the DOF, earlier said it was going after some local government units that have unpaid tax liabilities themselves.

Deeper in debt

NO FREE LUNCH
Cielito F. Habito

WITH Malacañang's submission to Congress last week of the proposed 2006 budget, we get a glimpse of what the government expects its fiscal challenge to be like next year.

Among the most interesting numbers in the P1.05-trillion budget proposal are those pertaining to debt service. As widely reported in the media, a whopping P721.7 billion will be paid out for our total debt service requirements next year. This is broken down into P340 billion for interest payments, and P381 billion for amortization of principal.

The corresponding numbers for this year, as presented to Congress a year ago, are P301.7 billion for interest payments and P344 billion for principal amortization, summing up to P646 billion in total debt service payments.

Recent DBM worksheets now show the total figure to be P606 billion, implying that principal amortization payments have been adjusted to P304 billion while interest payments have not changed.

Meanwhile, the government expects to collect a total of P968.6 billion in revenues next year, leading to a target government deficit of P125 billion.

The revenue target is an ambitious 33 percent higher than the original 2005 projection of 730 billion, later adjusted to P758.5 billion with the addition of new tax measures this year.

But with recent news that the expected revenue increases from the revised sin taxes has not materialized, the original figure seems more likely.

Better perspective

The following should help put these numbers in better perspective:

Next year, government will spend an average of P1.98 billion per day for total debt service payments, or P931 million per day if you count only interest payments. The money would be enough to build 7,920 classrooms or 250 kilometers of road every day.

These debt payments are equivalent to P23 per day per Filipino, or P11 per day counting interest alone.

The revenue forecast represents a hefty 33 percent rise over this year's level. On the other hand, BIR has so far this year posted a 12-percent increase in collections over last year, which is already quite impressive given its past record. And this is after the enactment of the revisions to the excise tax on sin products, which had been expected to boost revenues significantly.

But not only have revenues from this tax not risen, they have actually even dropped slightly.

Ambitious, unrealistic

Next year's revenue target appears extremely ambitious to the point of being unrealistic.

It appears premised on a substantial increase in revenues coming from the VAT. But the law remains unimplemented, and there is talk that it will yet undergo revisions to remove or raise the 70 percent cap on input VAT credits, and possibly restore the exemption on oil and power.

With government now operating on a political survival mode, these revisions are not unlikely. Given all these, I wouldn't bet on getting substantial incremental revenues from this tax either. Nor is it likely that the ambitious revenue increase will come from dramatically improved tax compliance and collection.

Reputable surveys have consistently been pointing to widespread distrust of the President and her government ever since the "Hello Garci" scandal broke out. Amid growing calls for a tax boycott to express public indignation over alleged election fraud and widespread graft and corruption, I am convinced that dramatic revenue increases cannot be achieved under this President.

Down to 3 out of 4?

This year's figures imply that about 9 out of every 10 pesos collected by government will go to debt payments (i.e. P646 out of P730 billion, or 88 percent).

Next year's projected numbers imply that this will go down to just 3 out of every 4 pesos of revenue (P721.7 out of P968.6 billion, or 75 percent).

But as already argued above, this is premised on highly unrealistic revenue projections. The last time the Arroyo government targeted a deficit of similar magnitude to next year's projected P125 billion (i.e., P130 billion in 2002), we ended up with P220 billion instead.

In any case, next year's debt payments will exceed this year's by P116 billion or 19 percent, and yet we are only managing a 12-percent annual increase in revenues so far.

If this is the best we can do under prevailing circumstances, which seems likely under the current dispensa-

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John Weiss, MBA – Vice President – Scribe Healthcare Technologies
Ann Barton CMT, FAAMT – Offshore QA Specialist, MTSO business owner (Ultrascribe)
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2. MT Industry in the Philippines - An Outlook
3. General Legal Issues for MT companies (HIPAA)
4. AAMT Benefits and American HIPAA concerns
5. Quality Issues in an Offshore Business
6. Bridging the Gap Between the US and Philippines
7. TASP - Selling Technology and Service
8. Marketing your MTSO Service
9. Quality and Productivity for MT Companies
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BOI call center launched

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BOARD of Investments has launched a round-the-clock, toll-free call center for investment inquiries to make investing in the country easier.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said developments in technology have made it possible for investment information to be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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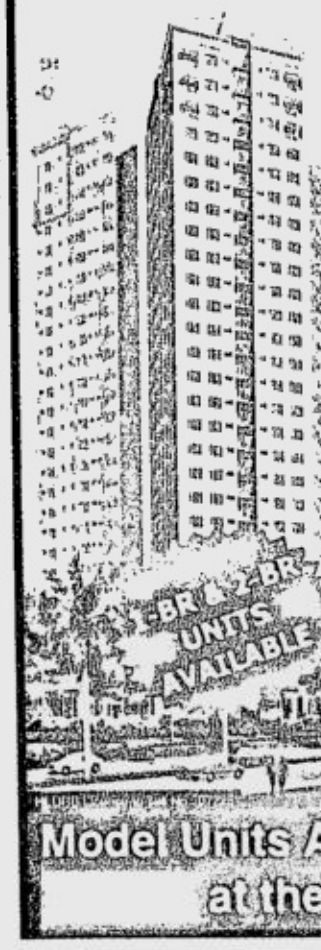

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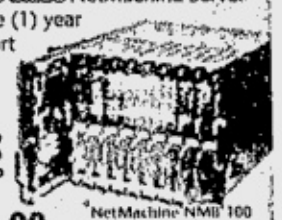
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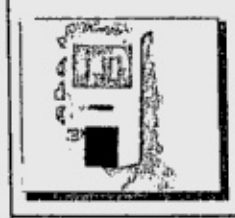
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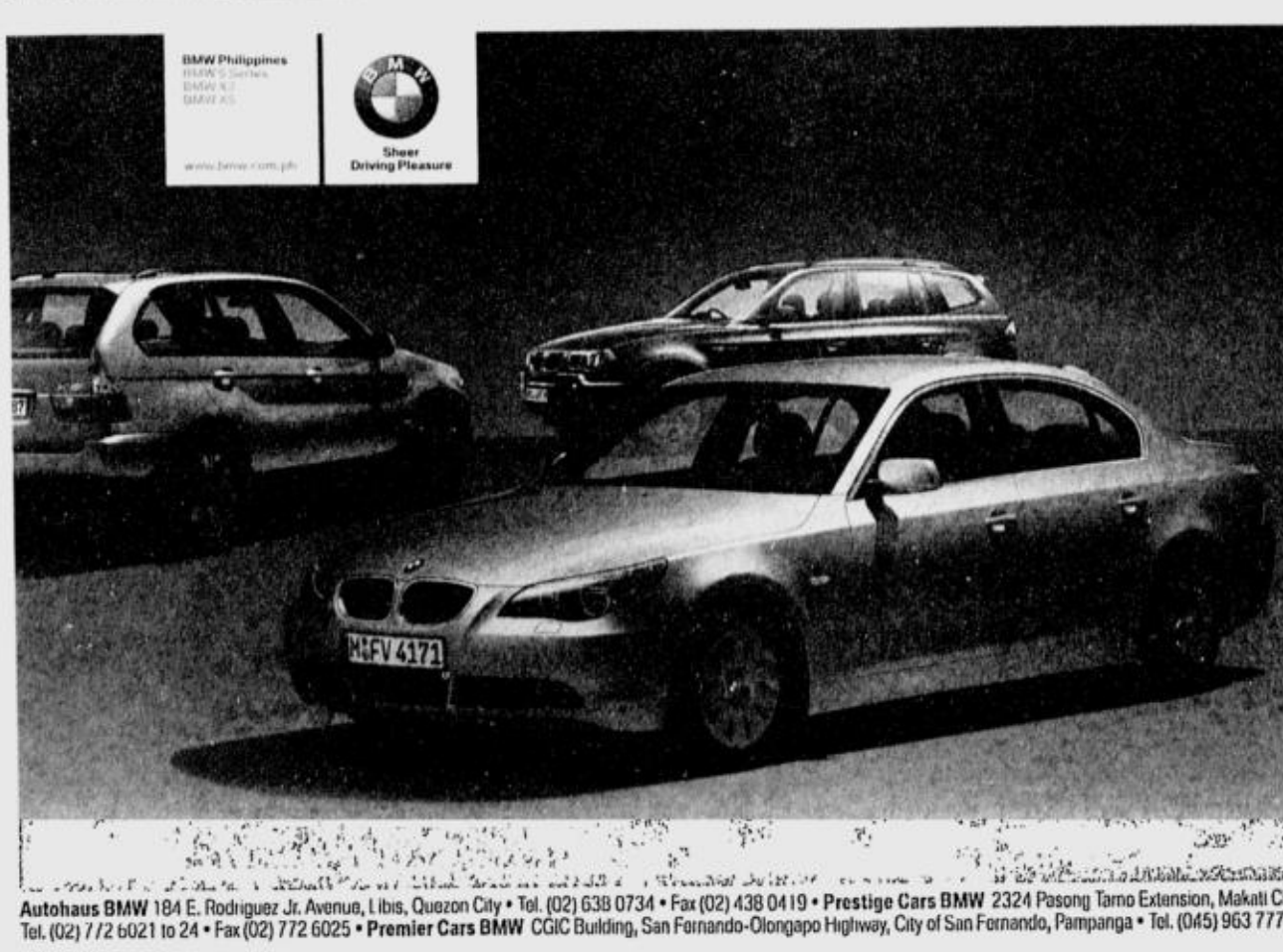

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PLDT asks Cojuangco to lower asking price for Dream TV

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. has asked its former head, Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco, to lower his asking price for Philippine Multi-Media System Inc., operator of Dream Satellite TV.

An informed source said Cojuangco wanted $56 million for the company, but PLDT was only willing to cough up $25 million.

Sources said PLDT and the broadcast satellite provider nearly struck a deal last week, but did not push through due to price disagreements.

However, both parties said negotiations were still ongoing and at a "very sensitive" stage.

Cesar Reyes, chair and chief executive officer of the Cojuangco-owned satellite broadcast outfit and a former PLDT official, said the telecom giant has been "in close pursuit of Dream," mainly because of its franchise to operate a direct-to-home programming.

Acquiring Dream Satellite is crucial to plans for the joint venture of PLDT and America's largest direct-TV provider, Echostar Communications Inc., to finally take off.

PLDT and Echostar plan to invest $85 million to start pay television operations in the Philippines, through satellite receivers and not the traditional cable system that is prone to piracy and signal theft.

PLDT and Echostar has an existing venture under PLDT subsidiary ePLDT, which provides inbound or outbound call center services to subscribers of Echostar in the US since 2002.

Their investment in direct broadcast satellite business had been discussed as early as 2000 but difficulty in getting a franchise stalled the venture.

Dream uses PLDT's Mabuhay Satellite to broadcast content to more than 100,000 subscribers nationwide.

"For the record, Dream is not selling. We are reacting to an offer made to us. We are a fast growing company, the second-largest pay TV operator now," Reyes said.

Beyond Cable Holdings Inc., the joint venture of Lopez-owned SkyCable and PLDT's Home Cable, is the largest.

PLDT owns a third of the cable joint venture, which it would like to exchange for control of Lopez-owned Bayan Telecommunications Phils. Inc.

Because of its pending joint venture with Echostar, PLDT would like to give up Home Cable in favor of Bayantel.

Discussions with Benpres Holdings Corp., which owns Bayantel, had been moving slowly after PLDT rival Globe Telecom Inc. also made an offer for the Lopez phone company.

As for Dream TV, another source said PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan believed Cojuangco's asking price for the satellite company was "ridiculous."

Dream Satellite's service is more expensive than that offered by traditional cable providers because one has to purchase a satellite dish worth P15,000.

Another source said that if talks with Dream fail, then PLDT would open negotiations with other direct-to-home providers, like Pacific Cable Inc. and GV Broadcasting.

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Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,100,000	1,000,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,200,000	1,100,000
Baguio Country Club	530,000	500,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	40,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	50,000
Camp John Hay	170,000	-
Canlubang	500,000	400,000
Canyon Woods	120,000	-
Capitol Hills	80,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	1,300,000
Celebrity Sports Club	120,000	-
Club Filipino	100,000	-
Eagleridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Forest Hills "A"	110,000	-
Forest Hills "B"	200,000	-
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	160,000
Luisita Goll B	-	300,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	220,000	-
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	11,200,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	11,000,000
Manila Polo	Please Call	2,100,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	360,000	350,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	700,000	600,000
Manila Yacht Club	400,000	300,000
Mimosa (Individual)	-	130,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	330,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	230,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	350,000	280,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	180,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	450,000	350,000
Quezon City Sports Club	150,000	125,000
Rockwell	Please Call	-
Spa & Lodge	600,000	500,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,200,000	1,100,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,600,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	170,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	100,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	300,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	600,000
The Palms Country Club	530,000	-
Valle Verde (Individual)	120,000	-
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	-
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Baguio Country Club	550,000	530,000
Calatagan Golf	40,000	
Camp John Hay	-	140,000
Canyon Woods	125,000	
Capitol Hills	90,000	
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	
Celebrity Sports	120,000	100,000
City Sports Club Cebu	Pls. Call	
Club Filipino	Pls. Call	90,000
Eagleridge A/C**	190,000/Pls. Call**	150,000
Eastridge A/B*	Pls. Call	
Evercrest	65,000	
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	130,000/200,000*	
Luisita Golf	350,000	
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls. Call	
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	
Manila Polo	2,250,000	2,100,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	380,000	650,000*
Makati Sports Club	200,000	170,000
Metropolitan Club A/B*	120,000/150,000*	
Mimosa CA/CB*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Mt. Malarayat A	220,000	180,000
Orchard A/B*/C**	170,000/Pls. Call*/300,000**	150,000/250,000**
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Sherwood A/C*	70,000/80,000**	
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,250,000/1,500,000*	1,100,000
The Palms Country Club	550,000	
Tagaytay Country Club	380,000	
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	
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Sy may hike stake in key listed firms

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE GROUP of mall tycoon Henry Sy Sr. is studying the possibility of increasing its investments in key publicly-listed companies.

SM Prime Holdings Inc. president Hans Sy said the group was always on the lookout for opportunities.

Sy said this when asked last week in a briefing if the Sy group was still interested in beefing up its 11-percent stake in food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. and 45-percent stake in China Banking Corp.

SM Investments Corp. (SMIC) , the flagship investment company, just raised its stake in Southeast Asia's largest food and beverage firm by 4.6 percent, raising its total holdings to 11 percent.

While it already holds 6.5 percent or one board seat in San Miguel, SMIC's additional purchase of P9 billion worth of shares at the stock market last week was not enough to get one more seat.

SMIC corporate information officer Jose Sio said in a telephone interview that while SMIC doesn't yet have a second board seat in San Miguel, it may be allowed to hold two board seats through proxies.

SMIC bought a 143 million class A SMC shares at the stock market at P63 a share. Sio said SMIC bought the shares from the SMC Retirement Fund in five block sales.

"SM's increased investment in San Miguel is a testament to its growing optimism on the latter's long-term potentials, having built a solid domestic business base for its alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, food and packaging products where it is the recognized market leader," Sio wrote in a letter to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

He also said SM's move was bolstered by San Miguel's recent purchase of Australian dairy giant National Foods Ltd. which to it, " appears promising given the latter's strong potential to contribute significantly to San Miguel's bottom line and cash flows going forward."

Sale of gov't . . .

From page B1

School in Makati. The sale of this property is targeted toward the end of the year.

Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC), the country's biggest producer of geothermal power, is also up for sale. Its geothermal fields are in Leyte, Negros Oriental, Bicol and Cotabato.

Earlier, the government disclosed plans to finally dispose of its interests in television stations RPN-9 and IBC-13.

Investors await VAT decision

From page B1

international credit-rating agency's next verdict on risk premium for the Philippines, which will also create a bearing on listed firms' borrowing charges," said Grace Cerdenia of 2Trade Asia.com.

"But the VAT law seems to be a two-edged sword. While the implementation of the VAT law may be inflationary, the additional tax collection would help the government remain on track with its fiscal program," BPI Trade said in a weekly report.

Last week, the main index dropped 32 points or 1.6 percent to 1934.56, dragged by higher oil prices and political jitters.

BPI Trade said that market players have been focused on the ongoing impeachment case at the House of Representatives.

But the online broker said that what has worried investors has been the phenomenal rise in crude oil prices, peaking at $68 a barrel last week.

The only bright spot, according to 2Trade Asia, has been the mining sector, which took the limelight during the week.

"With several news in large-cap, index-linked stocks, traders are anticipating a prospective kick might be led by mining shares, similar to what transpired early this year. It might be fitting to take a closer look at this counter anew, as institutional investors position for metal prices' bullish chart performance, apart from a convincing macro backdrop of limited supply and increasing demand from China and India, among others," 2Trade Asia said. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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LECTURE SERIES SCHEDULE (36-unit MCLE credited attendance)

DAY 1: September 3 - Philippine Army Officers Clubhouse at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

TIME	TOPIC	LECTURER
8:00 - 10:00am	The New Vat Law and its Implementing Regulations (2cu)	Atty. Serafin Salvador, Jr.
10:15 - 12:15pm	Resolution of Disputes in the Workplace (2cu)	Dean Froilan Bacungan
1:00 - 3:00pm	Constitutional Reforms for the Judiciary (2cu)	Dean Jose Roy III
3:15 - 6:15pm	Updates in Legal Ethics (3cu)	Justice Hector Hofileña

DAY 2: October 8 - Asian Institute of Management Conference Center, Makati City

TIME	TOPIC	LECTURER
8:00 - 10:00am	Oral Advocacy and Effective Cross-Examination (2cu)	Atty. Rogelio Vinluan
10:15 - 12:15pm	Significant Changes and Amendments in Procedural Rules (2cu)	Justice Ruben Reyes
1:00 - 3:00pm	Trial Technique (2cu)	Atty. Sigfrid Fortun
3:15 - 6:15pm	Updates in Commercial Law (3cu)	Judge Sixto Marella, Jr.

DAY 3: November 5 - Philippine Army Officers Clubhouse at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

TIME	TOPIC	LECTURER
8:00 - 10:00am	Dual Citizenship and its Ramifications (2cu)	Justice Isagani Cruz
10:15 - 12:15pm	New Rules on Pre-Trial (2cu)	Justice Noel Tijam
1:00 - 3:00pm	Taxation Laws & the Corporation (2cu)	Atty. Edmundo Guevara
3:15 - 6:15pm	Conciliation & Arbitration of Construction Disputes (3cu)	Atty. Victor Lazatin

DAY 4: November 26 - Philippine Army Officers Clubhouse at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

TIME	TOPIC	LECTURER
8:00 - 10:00am	Pleading Effectively Before Trial and Appellate Courts (2cu)	Atty. Katrina Legarda
10:15 - 12:15pm	Practice and Procedure before Labor Arbiters and the NLRC (2cu)	Dean Froilan Bacungan
1:00 - 3:00pm	Use of Forensic Pathology in Crimes against Persons (2cu)	Dr. Racquel Fortun
3:15 - 6:15pm	The Lawyer's Pitfalls (3cu)	Justice Hilarion Aquino

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 26, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31.5	31.5	31	31	137,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52	52	51.5	52	499,800
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.61	0.63	0.61	0.63	1,570,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	50	50	50	50	109,400
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	105,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	27.5	28	509,000
Philippine National Bank	37.5	38	37.5	38	19,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	2,000
Security Bank Corp.	29	29.5	29	29.5	59,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	255	255	255	255	100
Manulife Financial Corp.	2810	2810	2810	2810	80
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2030	2030	2030	2030	850
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	4,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1	1.02	1	1.02	90,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	720	725	715	715	13,600
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	1,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	1,300,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3	3.05	3	3.05	1,117,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1535	1565	1535	1560	133,180
Ivantage Corp.	0.62	0.64	0.62	0.63	590,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.017	0.015	0.017	126,600,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	8,000
Manila Electric Co. B	23	23.25	23	23.25	150,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	3,093,000
Petron Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	1,964,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.2	1.32	1.2	1.28	1,701,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	890,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	200,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8	8.1	8	8.1	509,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3	3	3	3	1,277,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	120,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	3,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	30	30	13,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	32.5	32.5	32	32	422,200
RFM Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	70,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	40,000
San Miguel Corp. A	67	67.5	67	67.5	112,100
San Miguel Corp. B	97.5	97.5	97	97	168,600
Universal Robina Corp.	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	1,670,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	700,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.006	0.0075	0.006	0.0075	15,000,000
Ayala Corp.	297.5	302.5	297.5	297.5	39,800
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	5	5	150,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	9.8	10	9.8	10	4,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.02	2.08	2.02	2.08	1,110,000
APC Group Inc.	0.25	0.27	0.26	0.26	500,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	11,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.62	0.66	0.62	0.66	4,880,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.11	0.105	0.11	650,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1	1,093,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.245	1,110,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.245	0.25	0.245	0.25	1,080,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.95	3	2.95	3	710,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	616,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	253,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	43.5	43.5	43.5	43.5	607,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.07	0.07	1,100,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	80,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.72	1.76	1.72	1.75	15,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.32	1.36	1.32	1.36	1,762,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	2,960,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	72,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.53	0.55	0.53	0.55	100,000
SM Investments Corp.	213	214	210	211	272,310
South China Resources Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	60,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.175	1,500,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	10,000
Stenlel Manufacturing	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	320,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.72	0.74	0.71	0.71	270,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.42	1.5	1.42	1.5	3,415,000
Manila Jockey Club	3	3	3	3	87,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	250,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	87,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.3	8,976,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	70,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	970,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.36	2,951,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.205	160,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.42	500,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.11	0.125	0.11	0.125	620,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	500,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.2	8,388,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.008	12,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.1	6.7	6.1	6.7	3,764,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.4	8.6	8.4	8.5	28,000
Benguet Corp. B	25	25	25	25	2,500
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.04	2.08	2.04	2.08	104,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.34	13,600,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	14,620,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	12,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.021	0.022	0.021	0.022	73,400,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	49,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.81	0.85	0.81	0.84	4,240,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.95	1.02	0.95	0.99	15,500,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27.5	28	27.5	28	813,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.34	6,130,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	9,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	10,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	70,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	117,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.43	980,000

CURRENCIES

August 28, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.812744	1.000000	56.0770
Japan	Yen	0.007386	0.009088	0.5096
United Kingdom	Pound	1.465946	1.803700	101.1461
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.104588	0.128685	7.2163
Switzerland	Franc	0.647089	0.796178	44.6473
Canada	Dollar	0.681890	0.838997	47.0484
Singapore	Dollar	0.486178	0.598193	33.5449
Australia	Dollar	0.617540	0.759821	42.6085
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.155934	2.652661	148.7533
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.216732	0.266667	14.9539
Brunei	Dollar	0.484729	0.596410	33.4449
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000079	0.000097	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.019794	0.024355	1.3658
UAE	Dirham	0.221293	0.272279	15.2686
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.230400	68.9971
Argentina	Peso	0.279774	0.344234	19.3036
Brazil	Real	0.335956	0.413360	23.1800
Denmark	Kroner	0.134140	0.165046	9.2553
India	Rupee	0.018641	0.022936	1.2862
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215697	0.265393	14.8824
Mexico	New Peso	0.075254	0.092593	5.1923
New Zealand	Dollar	0.567044	0.697691	39.1244
Norway	Kroner	0.126259	0.155349	8.7115
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013623	0.016762	0.9400
South Africa	Rand	0.125792	0.154775	8.6793
Korea	Won	0.000792	0.000974	0.0546
Sweden	Kroner	0.107139	0.131824	7.3923
Syria	Pound	0.015657	0.019264	1.0803
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025205	0.031012	1.7391
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000379	0.000466	0.0261

Suplico's own RUT

OPPOSITION congressman Rolex Suplico has lately been riding his high horse, bashing GMA with RUT (road users' tax) and other alleged anomalies in a concerted push with a strange Left-Marcos-Erap-civil society alliance to oust the President.

Looking at the track record of his family corporations, Suplico could very well use some housecleaning himself.

As of last week, the Securities and Exchange Commission had no record whatsoever of the annual financial reports of the Suplico-controlled Goodwill Bookstore in Glorietta since the Makati bookstore was incorporated in the year 2000.

All the SEC files had were the 2000 incorporation papers, which reported that the bookstore had a total of P100,000 in paid-up capital, not even enough to pay for a month's rent in the Ayala mall.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

Suplico's wife, bookstore heiress Maria Teresa Cancio-Suplico, quoting the company accountant, maintained that the bookstore had complied with all the reportorial SEC requirements.

"The P100,000 capitalization is ancient history," she said.

In any case, Goodwill's alleged SEC violations are minor, compared with the continuing inheritance battle between the Suplicos and the other heirs over the estate of the late publishing magnate, Manuel Cancio.

But that is another story.

Victoria's billions

IT looks like top corporate lawyer Victoria delos Reyes has been quite economical with the truth with the estate court and the taxman as regards the value of her multibillion-peso windfall from her childless aunt who recently passed away.

A former bar examiner for legal ethics, Delos Reyes placed the value of the estate of her landed aunt, Pacita Ongsiako delos Reyes-Phillips, at P100 million, not in the P2-3 billion estimate that the US-based husband claims the late Miss Philippines 1929 had built up in so many decades of saving and investing.

You do the math.

The two properties in Dasmariñas Village (one on Morado Street, where Juan Ponce Enrile,

COCKTALES/ B6

Alliance Global to expand McDonald's network

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

HOLDING firm Alliance Global Group Inc. is expanding its food and beverage line under its newly acquired franchise, fast food brand McDonald's.

McDonald's may end up with 20 more stores this year, bringing its total chain of stores nationwide to 260 by the end of the year, Alliance Global chair George Yang said after AGGI's stockholders' meeting Friday.

Yang said McDonald's is spending roughly P25 million for each new store.

"Alliance Global intends to push the McDonald's brand to intersect more and more with the Filipino consumers' daily lives. A number of stores are undergoing a face-lift, marketing is shifting to a more aggressive mode and the call of the hour is to raise the bar of customer service ," Yang told stockholders.

Last March, Alliance Global acquired 49 percent in the Philippine franchise of McDonald's for $15.05 million, making it 100-percent Filipino-owned. Alliance Global acquired the common shares held by US-based McDonald's Restaurant in Golden Arches Development Corp., Golden Arches

ALLIANCE/ B6

BPI completes tender offer for Prudential

THE TENDER offer by Bank of the Philippine Islands to buy up to 100 percent of Prudential Bank shares ended last Friday with stockholders owning 8.18 million shares representing 99.52 percent of the outstanding shares of the bank offering to sell their shares.

Prudential Bank is a mid-size commercial bank with about P60 billion in assets as of June 30.

While BPI has no immediate plans to merge with Prudential Bank upon acquisition, BPI is expected to leverage on its 154 years of banking experience, financial strength and proven expertise in electronic banking to improve Prudential's operating efficiency and the quality of its banking services.

Prudential Bank has a network of 187 branches and 52 automated teller machines nationwide that will present a good strategic fit to BPI's 707 branches and 1,300 ATMs nationwide.

The tender offer shares will be sold via a special block sale at the Philippine Stock Exchange today.

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BIR: Amusement tax collection weaker in H1

By Michelle V. Remo

THE INCREASING prices of oil and commodities may have knocked the thirst for amusement out of consumers.

Data from the Department of Finance showed that the government's collection of amusement tax—which covers places and events like cockpits, horse racing, boxing exhibitions, basketball games, and services like those of bars and night-clubs—was weak in the first half of the year.

Amusement tax collection has dropped compared with the previous year's level, and is significantly lower than the official target for the period.

Collection by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, an attached agency of the DOF, stood at only P48.5 million in the first six months of the year—lower than the P62.6 million collected during the same period last year.

The first-half collection of amusement tax was also 80 percent short of the official target for the period, which was set at P247.6 million.

Amusement tax, which BIR collects from the proprietor, lessee or operator of amusement events, has varying rates depending on the events covered.

An 18-percent amusement tax is imposed on operators of cockpits, cabarets and night and day clubs.

Boxing exhibitions, except when Oriental or World Championships are at stake, are subject to a 10-percent amusement tax.

Professional basketball games are covered with 15 percent, while operators of jai alai and racetracks are slapped 30 percent.

With the dwindling purchasing power of consumers, brought about by accelerated inflation of basic commodities, economists believe spending for amusement is one of the first expenses they often let go of.

Inflation stood at 7.1 percent in July, much higher than the official target this year of only 5 to 6 percent.

"The government might have set a very high target for the amusement tax and failed to project a likely drop in the number of amusement events like boxing exhibitions," a finance official said.

Meanwhile, BIR officials have revived the revenue agency's "tax mapping" operations.

Under the program, BIR personnel are sent out into the field to check on the tax compliance of business establishments, including day and night clubs.

Dishonesty in tax payment may also be another reason for the low amusement tax collection, especially from club operators.

The parliamentary nightmare

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

JOSE V. Abueva's dream of a parliamentary government is also one monstrous nightmare.

Abueva wants a unicameral state assembly (it is really a parliament with executive and legislative powers) in each of the proposed 11 independent states (please see my last week's column). No checks and balances here.

A member of the state assembly is elected in each district (the existing congressional district). Additional members are appointed from the various contending political parties according to a mathematical equation. It is another way of increasing party-list representation, now dominated by the communists. Besides, considering the huge cost of an electoral campaign, elected and appointed members in a parliament won't mix.

The members of the state assembly will replace the 79 provincial governors and 758 members of the provincial boards. These politicians will not take this lying down.

The state assembly elects the leader of the majority party or coalition as the state governor to head the state government. The state governor forms the state council (Cabinet) made up mostly of members of the state assembly. The state assembly also elects the state vice governor from among its members.

On top of these state assemblies is the bicameral parliament sitting in Manila. The members of the House are elected in the present 225 congressional districts for a term of five years. Sixty to 80 more members are chosen as in the state assemblies (more communists).

Two or three senators (depending on the size of the state assembly) are elected—now get this—by the members of each state assembly, mostly from among their members. This will be a Senate held hostage by the state assemblies.

The parliament elects the leader of the majority party or coalition as the prime minister who is the head of the government. He forms the Cabinet mostly from the members of the parliament. Again, no checks and balances here.

The parliament and state assemblies elect the president to a five-year term. The president is the symbolic and ceremonial head of state. He symbolizes the sovereignty of the people and the unity and solidarity of the nation. In short, he is a monarch, just like Queen Elizabeth in the United Kingdom. We better collect some crown jewels, set up a throne and build a throne room for our monarch.

The Supreme Court remains, but the Court of Appeals will have a division in the capital of every state. A constitutional tribunal decides all disputes on the constitutionality of the decisions and actions of the federal government and the states. (This tribunal will be the busiest branch of the judiciary.) Each state will have a superior court, the regional trial counts, municipal courts and other inferior courts.

Abueva does discuss the tremendous additional cost to the citizenry of a parliament in Manila and 11 state assemblies, not to mention that each state will have its own judiciary and line departments. The double burden of a state tax and a federal tax will be unbearable.

Also, imagine the noise pollution emanating from 11 state parliaments all over the archipelago and the big parliament in Manila. The nationwide cacophony will be deafening.

Abueva says that his plan empowers the Filipino people to chart their own destinies in their respective states. But he strips the Filipino people of their cherished right to vote directly for the state governor and vice governor, the senators, the prime minister and, above all, the president. The Filipino people will not allow themselves to be so grossly disenfranchised.

The twin-headed monster of a federal republic with a parliamentary government will be created starting from 2007.

If the Abueva plan pushes through, the Filipino people will take years, if not decades, to come to grips with the complexities of the grandiose plan. The upheaval could be cataclysmic. The Philippines will likely not survive.

(More next week)

Fiscal plan to falter . . .

From page B1

in danger of missing even this pessimistic forecast if oil prices continued rising.

Every $1 increase in the price of oil a barrel would result in a 0.014-percentage point drop in GDP growth, he explained. Inflation, on the other hand, rises by a corresponding 0.038 percentage point increase.

"[Growth] can still drop below 5 percent," he said, making the Philippines the slowest growing country in the region. Some central bank economists now believed that the country was nearing the end of an extended five-year business cycle. For the Filipinos, this means life will get tougher before it gets better.

"2005 and 2006 will definitely be difficult years," Guinigundo predicted. "Oil [prices] will remain high, and inflation will increase, especially when the expanded value-added tax comes into effect."

"Growth will not be as robust," he added.

Guinigundo echoed Paderanga's concern that the government's tax revenues would suffer as the slow economy could force companies and individuals to remit lower income taxes.

"Definitely, it will have an impact," he said. Paderanga, who also heads the Credit Information Bureau Inc. that monitors the credit-worthiness of government and private firms, knows that foreign credit-rating firms are watching the government's fiscal position. To them, a credit-rating downgrade is never far from their minds.

The country's debt is already rated two notches below the "junk bond" cut-off level. Another ratings cut due to a weak economy will be another blow to the economy's already sagging fortunes.

Breathing space

Some relief may come by late next year as the prices of goods and services begin rising at a slower clip.

The central bank expects the inflation rate to "normalize" at between 4-5 percent by the second half of 2006 as consumers get accustomed to high petroleum prices. Neda also believes that the agriculture and services sector will once more carry the economy forward.

This early, however, government planners are already preparing to throw their old, inaccurate forecasts out the window.

In a telephone interview, Economic Planning Secretary Augusto Santos said the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee would meet this week to revise economic growth numbers, presumably to make them less "incredible" to the public.

"These forecasts were made when oil was at $48 a barrel," he said, hinting that even optimistic growth projections all the way until 2010 might be revised. "What happened was totally unexpected."

No free lunch

From page B2

tion, this would mean that debt payments will far outpace our revenue generation. Simply put, we would be getting even deeper in debt. I shudder to think where this is all leading us to.

Impeachment humor

When I ended last week's column by facetiously asking for the next text joke, I didn't expect that readers would actually send me some.

Here's one I hadn't seen yet: *Si* GMA *umakyat* sa rooftop. Guard: "Madam President, *huwag niyo pong gawin yan! Marami pa pong nagmamahal sa inyo!" GMA: "Huwag kang makialam! Dito lang may signal...* Helloo, Garci?!"

And another one: The brain of a Filipino politician has two sides: the LEFT side where there's nothing RIGHT, and the RIGHT side where there's nothing LEFT!

Comments are welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

Cocktales

From page B5

Vicente Carlos, and the Monsods live; one in Lumbang, whose neighbors include the German and Qatar ambassadors) already top P100 million.

The former beauty queen, according to widower's counsel Vicente Chuidian, also has a building in Binondo; another building in Plaza Ferguson, Ermita, two more in Palanan, Makati; several Makati condominium units in Century Plaza, LPL Manor, Urdaneta Apartments, Cacho Gonzalez, Legaspi Towers 200; a townhouse along Roxas Boulevard; another property in Kamuning, Quezon City; a condominium unit in Baguio City; and club shares in Manila Golf, Manila Polo, Club Filipino, and Makati Sports.

Chuidian also says he has documentary proofs that the late beauty queen, at the time of her death, owned 36 lots in the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque, as well as a $400,000 account with Bank of America in San Francisco that Delos Reyes allegedly withdrew right after her aunt's death.

What is adding further spice to the inheritance row is that Brother Eddie spokespersons, couple Louie and Triccie Sison, again met with Chuidian Friday, in the hope that Delos Reyes, who is a longtime friend of the Sisons, would agree to an amicable settlement with the rest of the estate claimants.

Fill-in the accounting blanks

IF YOU want an Exhibit A on how accounting firms paper over serious audit issues and try to wiggle out of any resulting accounting mess, take a look at how Joaquin Cunanan and Punongbayan & Araullo prefaced their respective audit reports of the doomed preneed company Pacific Plans.

"Our audits of the company's financial statements did not include the verification of the reasonableness of the actuarial reserve liability and insurance premium reserve," said Joaquin Cunanan in its 2003 audit.

This was what Punongbayan & Araullo said the following year:

"The terms of our engagement for the audit of the company's financial statements as of and for the year ended Dec. 31, 2004 did not include the verification of the balances of actuarial reserve liabilities and insurance premium reserves... the balances of these accounts have been computed based on the actuarial valuation made by the company's actuary using the standards and guidelines set by the Securities and Exchange Commission."

And this was how the bean counters concluded their respective audits in case the numbers do not match:

"In our opinion, except for the effects on the 2004 (2003 and 2002, in the case of Joaquin Cunanan) financial statements of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had our engagement included the verifications of the balances of the accounts mentioned ... the 2004 financial statements present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of Pacific Plans Inc. as of Dec. 31, 2004 ... in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the Philippines."

Heard through the grapevine

INSURANCE Commissioner Benjamin Santos has tendered his resignation, allegedly because of pressure from Bulacan Rep. Lorna Silverio. Malacañang has lined up Herminia Chong, a protege of Finance Secretary Gary Teves, as replacement

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Alliance Global . . .

From page B5

Realty Corp. and Y&M Development Corp.—companies led by Yang that hold the Philippine franchise for McDonald's. The remaining 51 percent is owned by Golden Arches of Yang's group.

Half of the amount Alliance Global invested in McDonald's was paid last March while the balance will be paid by September.

Alliance Global's recent entry into the quick service restaurant business through McDonald's is expected to result in a sizable chunk of food and beverage revenue in 2005.

Recently, McDonald's opened its first store in Zamboanga last February, with about 100 employees.

As early as 1999, Alliance Global saw the food and beverage business as a major platform in its plan to diversify into a regional competitive conglomerate.

Tracing its roots to glass manufacturing, Alliance Global branched out to food and beverage, setting up its subsidiary Alliance Growers Holdings Inc. to consolidate its interests and assets in food and beverage. The following year, the company acquired McKester Pik-Nik International Ltd., gaining control of two popular food brands: the McKester's line of juices, spreads, food preserves and processed fruits and Pik-Nik shoestring potato snacks.

Aside from these, it also distributes imported brands such as Campbell's soups, Ernest & Julio Gallo wines.

Gov't sees trade gap widening to $6.6B in '06

IMPORTS are seen to grow by 11 percent next year, higher than the projected export growth of 10 percent.

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT expects the country's trade deficit to widen by about 19 percent to $6.63 billion next year from the projected $5.59 billion this year largely due to the rising global oil prices.

Robust inflows from overseas Filipino workers and tourism are, however, expected to keep the current account and the overall balance of payment in a surplus position.

Documents from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and National Economic and Development Authority showed that exports earnings for 2006 are expected to grow by 10 percent to $47.14 billion, outpacing the 8 percent expansion this year to $42.85 billion.

However, imports are seen to grow at a higher rate of 11 percent to $53.77 billion from this year's projected growth of 10 percent to $48.44 billion.

These projections assumed that the price of Dubai oil would average at $53.64 per barrel next year, up from $48.95 per barrel this year.

From 2002 to 2004 or before global oil prices started to surge, the country's trade deficit grew by an average of only 4 percent each year.

The documents also showed that the current account surplus is expected to rise next year to $2.2 billion or 2 percent of gross domestic product, from $1.6 billion this year or 1.6 percent of GDP on strong migrant remittances.

"The BOP and current accounts will still be in a surplus next year," said BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr..

"We still have huge OFW inflows and this is basically the source of the current account surplus," he said.

Given the rising oil prices, he said the country would have to increase its export earnings by tapping new markets and developing new products.

"The DTI (Department of Trade and Industry) is trying to provide assistance in the form of more market information so that manufacturers will have better idea of where the markets are and what products are in demand in these markets," Tetangco said.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the economy and the rest of the world. Its major components are the current account and the capital and financial account.

The current account records trade in goods and services as well as transfers while the capital and financial account records loan transactions, investment flows, short-term capital and other related items.

Any transaction that gives rise to a payment by a Philippine resident, such as importation or offshore investment, is a deficit item in the BOP while any transaction that gives rise to a receipt payment, such as exporting or inward remittance and investment, is a surplus item.

From January to June this year, the country's trade deficit reached $2.13 billion, lower than the deficit of $3 billion in the same period last year.

BIR holding off collection of taxes from ecozone firms

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue agreed to hold off the collection of the tax liabilities of economic zone locators, some of which had warned of layoffs if their tax and duty exemption privileges were withdrawn.

The BIR made this decision despite a Supreme Court ruling that said that these firms, except those located in Subic, were not eligible for fiscal incentives.

The SC ruling clarified that Republic Act No. 7227, which grants tax and duty exemptions, cover only firms at the Subic economic zone and, therefore, other economic zones should not use the law as a basis to grant fiscal incentives.

The Department of Trade and Industry, however, called on tax authorities to maintain a status quo and not to collect the ecozone locators' tax liabilities, saying such a move could result in the pullout of investments in the economic zones.

Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila said the DTI was pushing for the immediate legislation of a law that would legitimize the granting of fiscal incentives to these firms.

A petition seeking the reconsideration of the ruling was earlier filed with the Supreme Court

Revenue Officer-in-Charge Jose Mario Buñag said his office would wait until a legislative measure legitimizing the granting of fiscal incentives to economic zone firms before making its move.

Equity company offers to fund MRT-3 purchase

By Clarissa S. Batino

WESTON Presidio Capital, a foreign equity company managing more than $2 billion in capital, has offered to assist the Arroyo administration in acquiring Metro Rail Transit 3 from the private consortium that built and owned it.

Government sources said Weston had designed a structure that would allow the Philippine government to prepay its equity rental payments to Metro Rail Transit Corp. by selling bonds and using the proceeds of the debt issue to acquire MRT 3 from MRTC at a discount.

The government is planning to sell up to $300 million worth of long-term bonds to finance the acquisition of MRT 3 assets and equity from MRTC, a consortium composed of the Fil-Estate Group, Ayala Corp., Ramcar Inc., Anglo-Phil Resources.

Presidio Capital is one of the groups that had offered to buy a portion of Makati Medical Center from its current shareholders to address the capital deficiency of the hospital, sources said.

Presidio's strategy, according to articles on the Internet, is "to originate investment opportunities" in different industries and companies operated by its management teams.

Transport Undersecretary Guiling Mamondiong said the equity company was optimistic that the sale of MRT bonds would attract investors.

Malacañang recently created an inter-agency team that would explore the possibility of buying out MRT 3 from MRTC. Prepaying the private consortium had been proposed during the time of former President Estrada when the government renegotiated its build-lease-and-transfer contract for MRT 3 with the private group.

Gov't to raise $177M for bridge program

THE PHILIPPINE government will raise $176.9 million for a nationwide bridge-building project via a mixed loan facility from Deutsche Bank with credit enhancement from the UK's Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD).

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the Monetary Board had approved the planned foreign borrowing, which would benefit the "Bridges for Progress Project" of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

"This is to complement the development of the nautical highway," Tetangco said.

The loan facility, denominated in Japanese yen, will have two components. It has a buyer's credit facility component accounting for 85 percent of the total amount and will be an official development assistance (ODA), and a commercial loan component payable in five years.

The first is payable in 14 years, including a four-year grace period, and will be slapped an interest rate of 1.89 percent per year.

The commercial loan component will carry an interest rate based on 6-month Yen Libor plus 2.95 percent.

The country wants to tap more of ODA assistance from multilateral and bilateral donors to lower the cost of its foreign borrowings.

The government aims to tap about $900 million worth of ODAs this year, representing 22.5 percent of its $4-billion foreign borrowing requirement.

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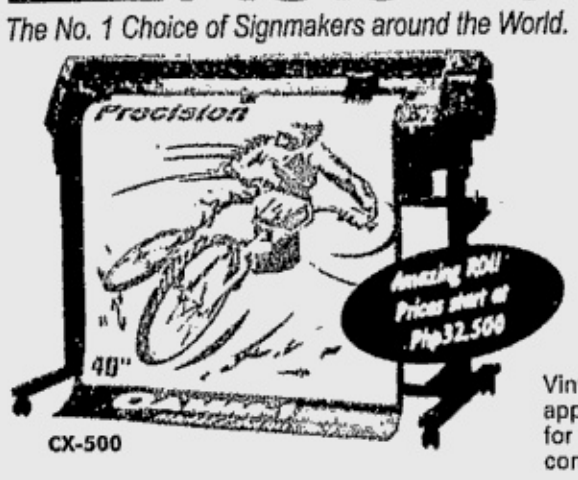

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Actual photo of McKinley Hill Village

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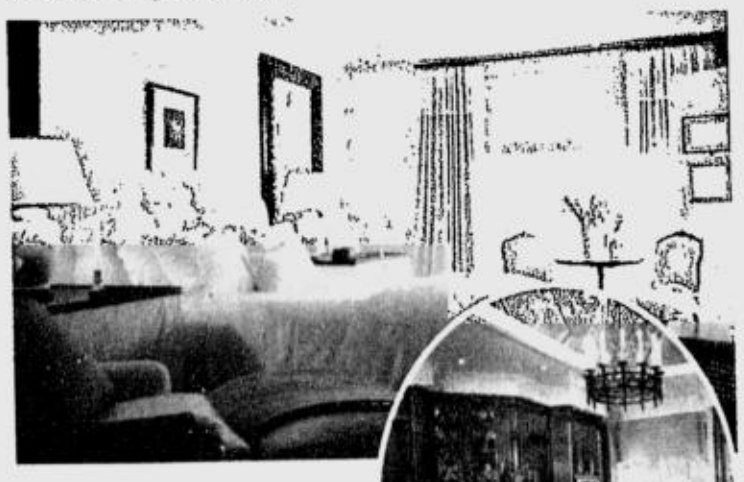
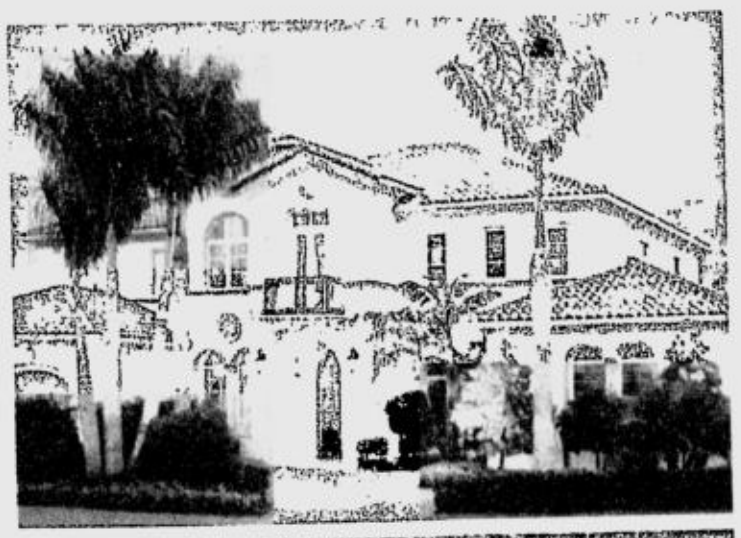
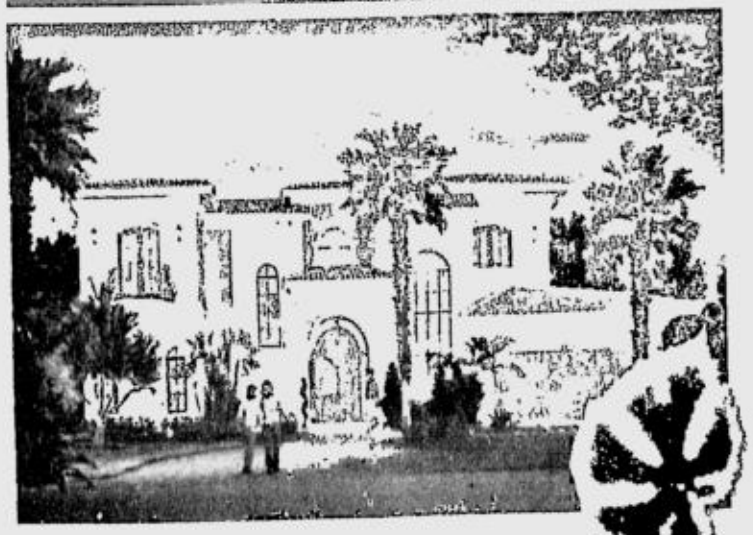


Choose the lot you want, and design your dream home in the classic Mediterranean style. Take your inspiration from four stunning residential showpieces now gracing the site: the Seville-style patrician casa, the Lisbon-inspired contemporary mansion, the Lyons-style modern *maison* and the South-California estate house. Unlike nearby subdivisions, McKinley Hill Village allows you to build your home to as high as 13 meters. So you can enjoy up to three levels of living space custom-tailored to your needs and lifestyle.





From the elegant gated entrance with porticos to the master-planned environment enriched with first-rate amenities and verdant vistas, McKinley Hill Village is a remarkable balance of scenic beauty and modern luxury.

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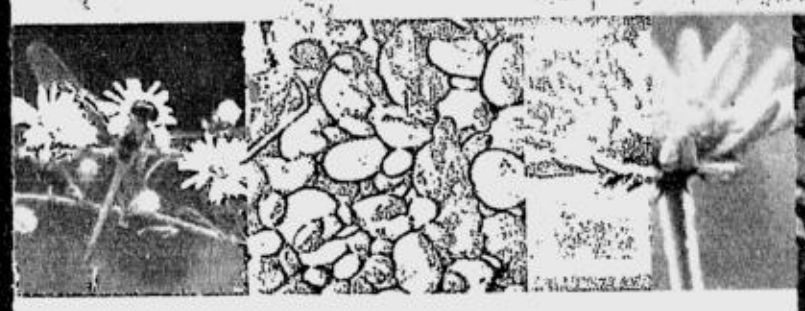
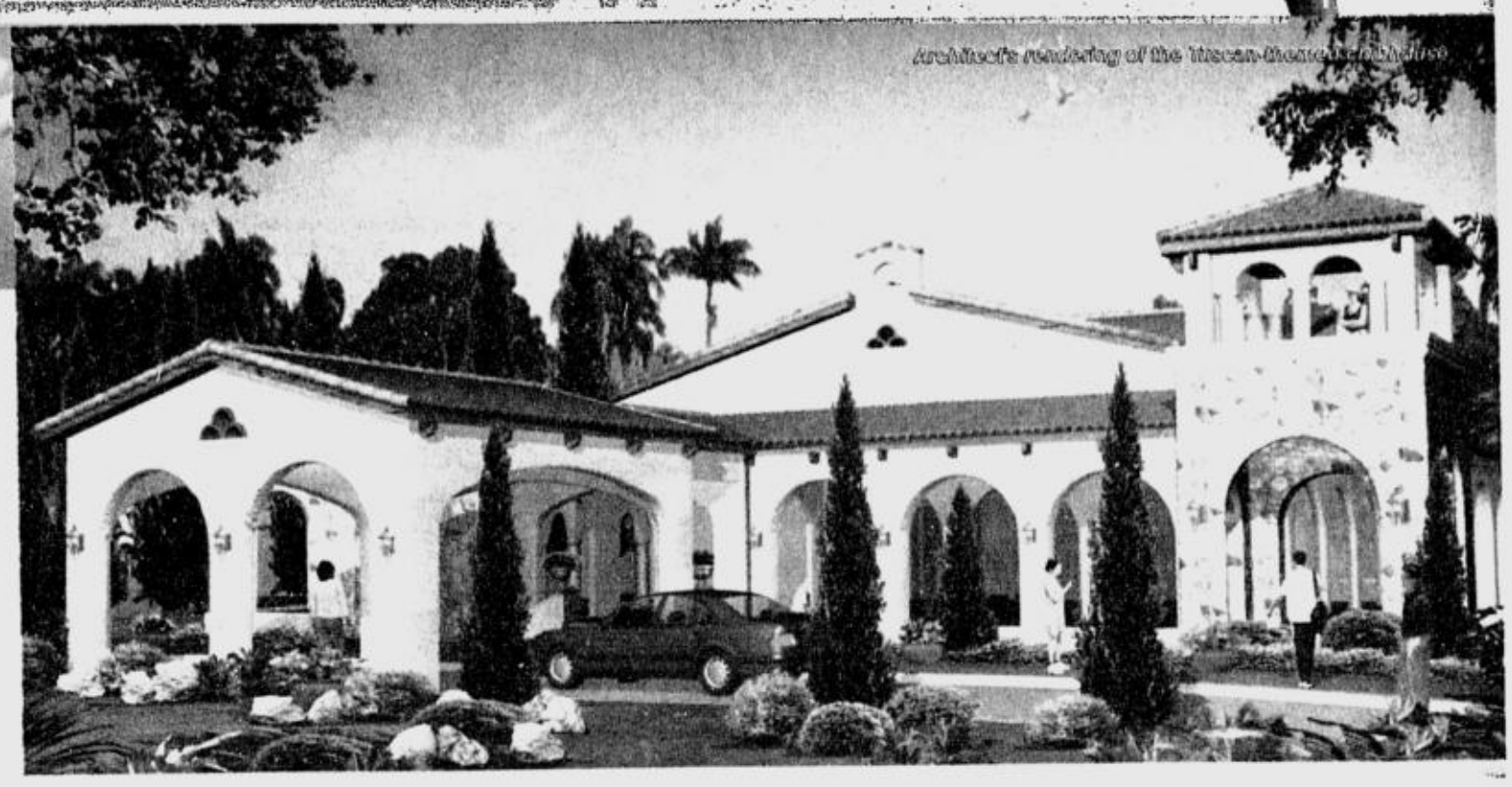


Surround yourself with trees, shrubs and blooms in a nature-rich setting enhanced by a botanical garden and a one-hectare nature park. Enjoy country club-style amenities topped by a picturesque, Tuscan-inspired clubhouse.



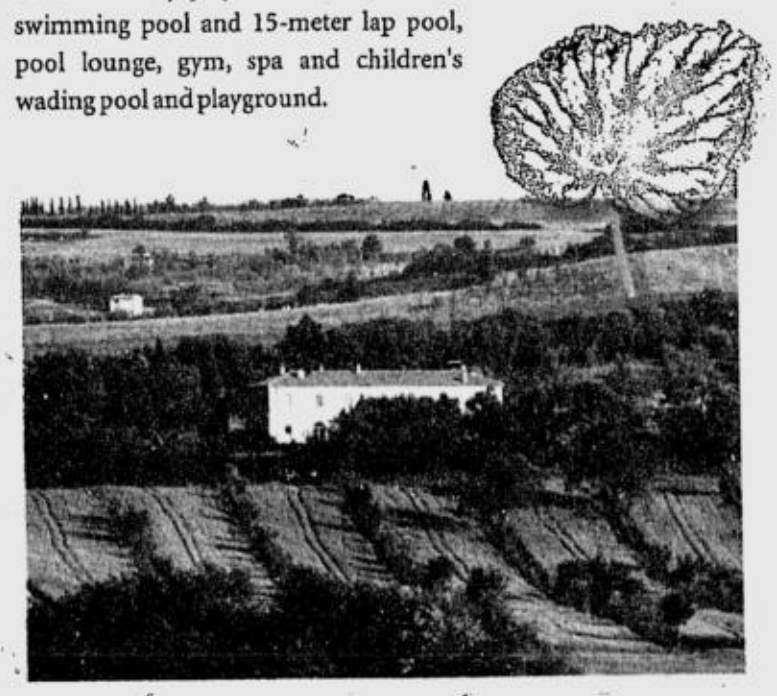
Architect's rendering of the Tuscan-themed clubhouse

Nestled on a gently sloping hill, McKinley Hill Village is a ravishing tableau of natural pleasures. The community teems with greenery and open spaces, so you can go back to nature in an idyllic location close to the metro's key destinations.

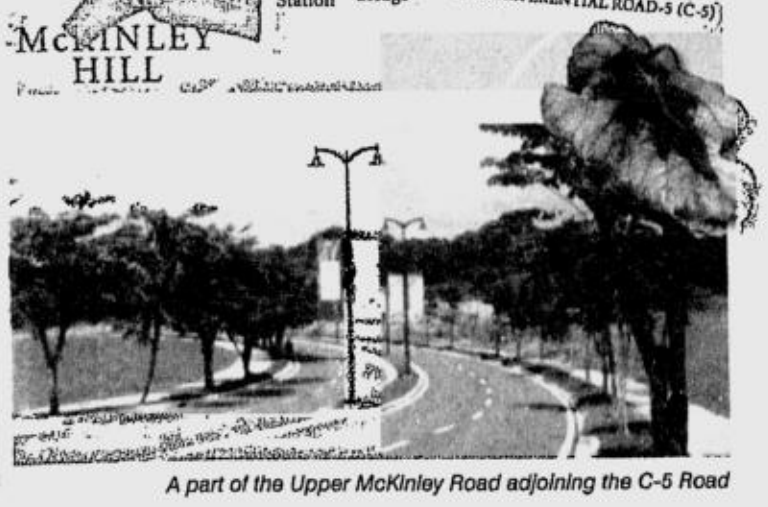
Across the subdivision, lush pocket gardens and a variety of tropical plants abound. Cutting through the sprawling, low-density landscape are tree-lined avenues such as Country Club Circle, Acadia Drive and McKinley Hill Drive. A botanical garden is located just outside the village gates, and a nature park ensconced in the community.

The center of recreational and social activity is the McKinley Hill Village clubhouse. A tribute to the celebrated Tuscan Style, the clubhouse melds the finest architectural influences of the Italian Renaissance. Reminiscent of a pastoral Tuscan villa, it is a sight to behold with its terra-cotta roof, stonework accents, earth-toned facade and floors in textured tile finish. And with its arched doorways, vivid murals and trellised courtyards, it exemplifies the air of beauty and refinement that permeates McKinley Hill Village.

As the centerpiece of the amenity area, the clubhouse will be surrounded by play amenities such as a combination free-form swimming pool and 15-meter lap pool, pool lounge, gym, spa and children's wading pool and playground.



Tuscany's undulating fields, sunlit villas and farmhouses are the inspiration for the McKinley Hill Village clubhouse



A part of the Upper McKinley Road adjoining the C-5 Road

Live and breathe beauty in the heart of a New City set to change the face of the metropolis.

McKinley Hill Village is the first residential phase of the now 50-hectare McKinley Hill, a cutting-edge mixed-use development set to transform Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City into a business district fit for the 21st century. At the head of this groundbreaking effort is trendsetting urban developer Megaworld Corporation, in tandem with the Bases Conversion Development Authority and Alliance Global Group, Inc.

Another ongoing residential project at McKinley Hill features Garden Villas in four-story condominium clusters. In the pipeline is a town center with shops and offices, along with an educational and institutional center.

On top of a nature-centered lifestyle, McKinley Hill counts accessibility and mobility among its distinct advantages. Its main avenue—the two-kilometer, 22-meter-wide Upper McKinley Road—connects to the existing McKinley Road to take residents straight to the Makati central business district. Upper McKinley Road is now virtually complete.

And that's not all. The nearby C-5 Road brings key points such as the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and Ortigas Center within easy reach. Almost next door are the Manila Golf and Country Club and Santuario de San Antonio Church. So are Bonifacio Global City's Price Smart, Home Depot, Market! Market! and American, British and Japanese international schools.

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HP begins production of 'scalable' inkjet printers

By Leo Magno

HEWLETT-PACKARD has begun manufacturing inkjet printers using its new Scalable Printing Technology (SPT) platform which the company hopes would tilt the printer market landscape in their favor.

After doubts have been raised about the company's strategic direction following a change in CEO and the layoff of 10 percent or 14,5000 employees, HP laid out its long-term strategy for the inkjet printer business which revolves around SPT.

"SPT is a technology platform that encompasses multiple parts of our business," said Christopher Morgan, senior vice president of HP's imaging and printing group for Asia Pacific and Japan. "The design is part of a long-term business strategy and is the product of a five-year strategic investment which cost $1.4 billion in R&D."

Simply put, SPT is a new technology design for HP printheads that, combined with new HP Vivera ink and HP-manufactured paper or media, would result in lower-cost yet faster and higher-quality printers.

"SPT is a printing technology platform, and off that platform we would develop a series of products," added Stephen Nigro, senior vice president and general manager of HP's graphic and imaging business. "It's a fundamental building block we hope would address the difficulties of this market."

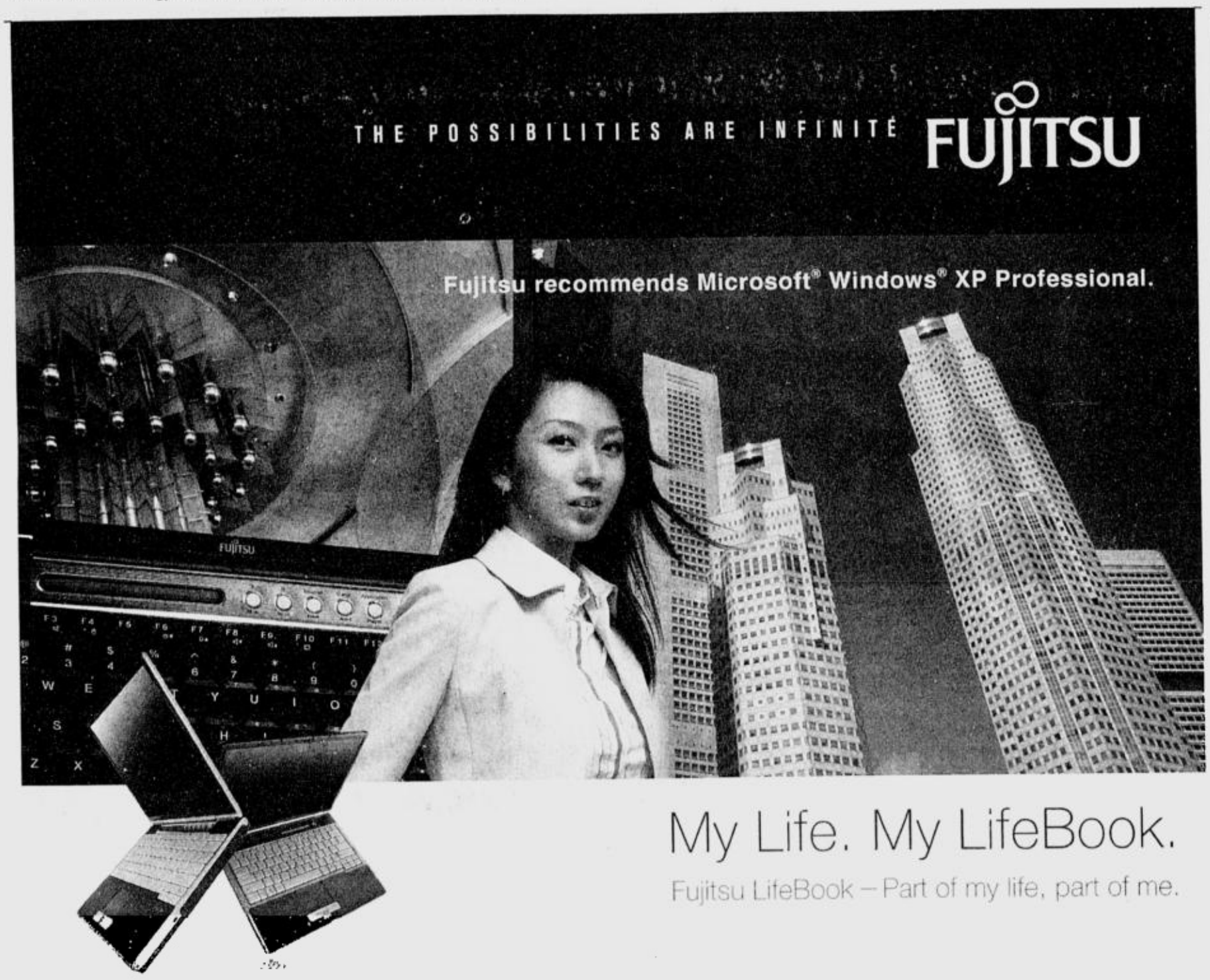
Nigro was referring to the inkjet printer market being fiercely competitive. Manufacturers Lexmark, Epson and Canon have cut their profit forecasts this year, blaming rising costs and falling profits. Now HP hopes to address those two problems by using SPT which promises the production of cheaper yet more efficient printers. HP's printer division has profit margins of 12.5 percent. The printer division is considered HP's crown jewel because it is the most profitable business for the company.

"Since SPT is a technology platform, we can bring down the benefits to volume manufacturing," said Morgan. "Scalability will bring the costs of our products down. We expect a large return on revenue with SPT."

Morgan claimed that cheaper products from HP won't sacrifice quality. SPT-enabled printheads are fabricated as one unit using a completely photolithographic process rather than being welded from several components during post-production. This results in the precise alignment of the chamber, nozzles and heating element which then improves accuracy of ink drop placements. A larger swathe and more nozzles on a single printhead results in greater paper area covered, increasing print speed and quality.

This scalable architecture allows HP to manufacture printers with bigger swathes as well as more nozzles and more number of inks per printhead. Using SPT, the company can thus in the future manufacture printers that address the home market, the SMB market, commercial markets all the way to the enterprise.

"This is important for customers in the Philippines," said Morgan. "The Philippine market is color-sensitive. They want low-cost but high-quality color. SPT printers will benefit customers who want high-volume and high-speed printing, as well as the consumer and home photo printing market."



How does VoIP benefit consumers?

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

AMID the rising prices of oil, electricity, goods and services in the Philippines, the National Telecommunications Commission's (NTC) decision to reclassify Voice-over-Internet Protocol (VoIP) as a value-added service means cheaper telephone services for consumers, especially for overseas Filipino workers and their families.

The NTC last week approved legislation supporting the deregulation of VoIP services in the country by signing memorandum circular number 05-08-2005. The Congress ICT committee also approved of the measure. This opens the Philippine VoIP market to value-added service providers such as ISPs who can now begin offering VoIP without the need to apply for a Congressional franchise.

VoIP is a technological innovation that will change the way calls are routed. Instead of passing through traditional telephone networks, known as public switched telephone networks (PSTN), calls will now go through the Internet as digital packets. This method will dramatically bring down the cost of making calls, say to the United States, to between 5 and 10 US cents a minute from the current 40 US cents per minute.

VoIP takes analog audio signals, like the kind you hear when you talk on the phone, and turns them into digital data that can be transmitted over the Internet. In short, VoIP can transform a standard Internet connection into a medium where you can make cheaper or even free phone calls. While some free VoIP software like Skype are now available to everyone, this innovation may bypass the phone companies and the usual long-distance charges. This is the reason telephone companies are opposing the technology.

In short, VoIP will revolutionize the way we communicate. It is disruptive for traditional phone companies, but it will essentially change the face of telecommunications.

With VoIP, providers like Vonage have emerged and have threatened incumbent players in the telecommunications industry. In the US, major carriers like AT&T have responded by riding on the VoIP bandwagon, offering their own VoIP services in several markets.

In the Philippines, the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), and its Internet café chain subsidiary Netopia, are now offering commercial VoIP services. Last month, Lopez-owned Bayantel joined the fray as it announced commercial residential VoIP services.

"This is all good news for us. Many of my techie friends are happy about it. But for consumers, this means greater access to telephony services because it lowers call rates. So this is significant news for families of OFWs," said Anthony Ian Cruz, TXTPower convenor, in a telephone interview.

TXTPower is a local consumer group advocating the rights of Filipino subscribers to various telecommunications services.

Cruz said that the NTC decision to reclassify VoIP as a value-added service would now provide Filipino consumers a wider range of choice.

"This is an anti-monopoly development since it encourages other value-added service players, apart from big telephone companies, to provide telephone services," Cruz continued.

He noted that Filipinos had been deprived of basic telephony services for so long because they remain expensive.

"As far as we know, the local exchange carriers (LECs) have fulfilled their obligations in rolling out landlines in the country. But largely, many of these lines are unsubscribed because consumers could not afford to pay for the required fees. Now that they have competition coming from value-added service providers, it will now be easier to provide telephony services to wider customer base," Cruz said.

PLDT has been offering VoIP services to consumers through its "budget card" brand, the TXTPower convenor stressed.

"Before this memorandum circular on VoIP, PLDT has been cashing in on VoIP using the Budget card and yet they were charging cents 20 to 30 cents," Cruz said.

He said that Philippine telephone companies have opposed government moves to deregulate VoIP "because they believe they possess this God-given right to provide telephone access services."

"The laws in our country are always behind technological practices. For some years now, VoIP has been available to us," Cruz said.

Early this year, the volume of outbound VoIP calls from Netopia branches has increased. This is mainly due to the availability of more VoIP booths at the Internet café branches and the addition of Netopia branches, said Raymond Ricafort, president of Digital Paradise Inc., owner of Netopia.

"We have an average of 250,000 minutes a month of VoIP calls at 0.10 dollars a minute. So that is roughly $25,000 a month," Ricafort said.

TACKLING MORE THAN ONE COMPLAINT PER YEAR IS NOT ONLY UNCONSTITUTIONAL

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In the past, publishing a book required high capital, forcing publishers to pool their resources toward proven best sellers and established authors. The publishers also usually required the authors to relinquish or share the copyrights to their books.

On the other hand, self-publishing was just as difficult, expensive and risky for the authors, who had to attend to every tedious task involved in publishing their books-from typesetting and layouts to registering copyrights and getting an ISBN number.

The most difficult part was having to invest a huge sum for the large minimum print run, usually 1,000 copies, but it would often result in money being tied up to a large inventory of books that could take years to sell.

Consequently, professors and teachers hardly got their books published, resulting in foreign textbooks or photocopies of notes being used in class.

"But now, with Central Books' Publish on Demand service, anyone can publish his own book without having to maintain a high inventory and incurring startup costs. With print runs of as low as 50 copies, an author can order only the quantity he needs when he needs it, and reordering takes only up to four days," Sibal said.

These unique services will be featured in its exhibit booth at the 26th Manila International Book Fair and 2nd Learn I.T. Fair, which will be staged at the World Trade Center Manila from Aug. 31 to Sep. 4.

More details can be obtained from Central Books (372-4807, 374-4064; e-mail salescentral@central.com.ph or central@central.com.ph; or log on to www.central.com.ph).

Central Books has been in the publishing business since 1945, with its eight bookstores strategically located near university areas in major cities across the archipelago.

Known for its law books, Central Books specializes in professional books and on-demand publishing services.

'Herbal Viagra' may pose dangers

HERBAL medicines have been used for centuries to treat various types of illnesses such as those related to the immune system, gynecological conditions, digestive disorders, allergies and respiratory problems. They are sold as natural remedies for such common health problems.

Since the introduction of Viagra (sildenafil citrate), the first medicine to treat erectile dysfunction (ED), to the market, a number of herbal medicines and other natural alternatives have been advertised as sexual enhancers that work the way Viagra does. These herbal medicines boldly call themselves "herbal Viagra," but the truth is that none of them has been shown to work in real scientific studies. These herbal preparations that are commonly advertised on the Internet and through spam e-mail are not as natural as manufacturers claim and could even pose health risks.

A study found that these so-called herbal Viagras are contaminated with compounds of medicines for ED. Out of the seven herbal preparations examined by researchers at Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto, Canada, two of them were found to contain PDE5 inhibitors.

"Since PDE5 inhibitors, including sildenafil, are not natural, deliberate contamination of these products must be considered," researchers said. "Consumers and regulatory agencies must be aware of these findings as these agents must only be taken upon consultation with a doctor to avoid adverse reactions with prevalently consumed drugs such as nitrates." Nitrates are contained in certain medicines for heart disease.

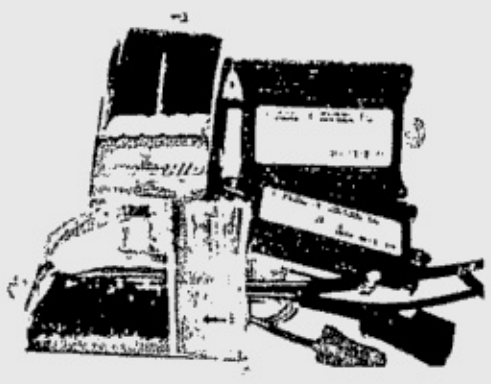
The most common ingredients of these herbal Viagra preparations were yohimbe, ginseng and gingko biloba. These herbs, as shown by previous studies, are known to have side effects such as skin reaction and heart problems. As of 2004, an Internet search of "herbal Viagra" yielded about 172,000 websites available for viewing.

Patients are encouraged to buy medicines only from licensed outlets. Buying from unlicensed outlets and informal sources not only endangers your health but will also be a waste of your resources.

This health information is made possible by Pfizer, a global, research-based healthcare company that discovers, develops, manufactures and markets effective and innovative medicines for humans and animals, and many of the best-known consumer products. In 2004, Pfizer, the world's largest private biomedical research organization, invested more than $7.5 billion to find cures to help preserve, protect and promote the quality of life of people all over the world.

The future's bright for Xenon

THE BASIC philosophy of automotive engineering has evolved from individual technical solutions contributing to improved value within the vehicles, to a system integration concept, where individual technical solutions are combined into one specific innovation.



One such example is the emergence of advanced front lighting systems (AFLS). Considerable improvements in automotive lighting systems have been introduced over the last decade. Automotive engineers have burned the midnight oil to come up with an innovative solution to improve nighttime driving visibility.

Since its introduction in Europe during the early '90s, Xenon bulbs, technically referred to as high-intensity discharge (HiD) lamps, have become a popular safety option for both car owners and automobile manufacturers. Due to the additional amount of safety provided by AFL HiD systems, marquee brands such as Mercedes Benz, BMW and Lexus are offering variants equipped with xenon HiD systems as standard feature.

AFL HiD systems are bulbs filled with xenon gas. Instead of filaments, HiD systems create light by zapping an arc between two electrodes. This ignites the xenon gas, which in turn ignites metallic salts. Xenon bulbs offer 2.5 times as much light volume compared to halogen bulbs. A xenon kit comes with a ballast system which acts as its igniter and control unit. Aside from its powerful white beam, xenon only consumes 35 watts, which makes the headlights cooler to the touch, compared to halogen bulbs whose temperature burns up to 500 degrees Fahrenheit.

"Due to the extreme temperature, halogen bulbs cause serious burn injuries to the skin. The extremely hot nature of the Halogen bulb technology is also one reason they lose their brightness after a certain amount of time," states Benedict Go, president of Hummer Philippines and authorized distributor of the Xenon Bulbs in the country.

The only downside of an HiD system is its prohibitive price, which explains why only high-end automobiles are equipped with xenon bulbs. "When you consider the improved visibility during nighttime driving and the increased level of safety, the price takes a back seat," relates Go. "The local market is gradually realizing the benefits of an HiD system. I have installed xenon bulbs to a variety of customers ranging from cars, AUV, SUV and sport bike owners. Our sales have steadily grown since we introduced xenon bulbs early last year, despite the emergence of imitation Xenon Bulbs flooding the market," Go adds.

The price of an HiD system range from P16,000 for the entry level WRC bulbs, P24,000 for the Taiwan made-ballast powered Helios HiD, to as high as P48,000 also for the generation II ballast-equipped Philips HiD with a bulb made from a quartz crystal. All three types of xenon bulbs are now equipped with the innovative generation II type ballast that emits a much powerful beam of bright light.

Xenon Bulbs technology adapt to varying conditions such as weather, road, and vehicle speed. Aside from automotive headlamp systems, other applications of xenon bulbs technology include: marine (for fast crafts and ships), stage production, industrial and military use. Unlike other imitation HiDs in the local market, Xenon Bulbs carry an after sales warranty of up to 12 months.

For inquiries, call 713-1998, 0917-8999555 or visit the Xenon showroom at 318 G. Araneta Avenue Quezon City, or log on to www.xenon-bulbs.com.

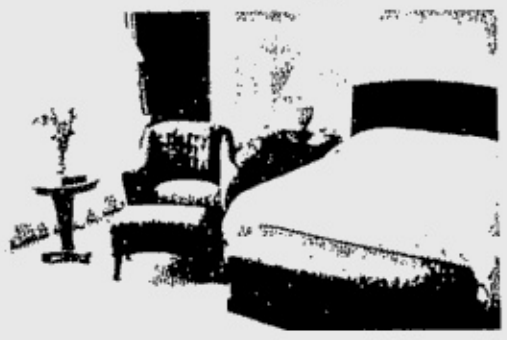
SMEI grand alumni homecoming

ST. MARY'S Educational Institute of Lemery, Batangas invites all its alumni to a grand homecoming on Dec. 30. The theme of the homecoming is "SMEI at 50: Rebuilding Towards Progress." For more details, see Sr. Cecilia or Mercy Yuzon, or call (043)409-1737 or e-mail smei50th@yahoo.com.

Chef's recommendations at Edsa Shangri-La

SAVOR authentic Chinese cuisine with a modern international twist as Edsa Shangri-La's Summer Palace features chef's recommendations ongoing until Aug. 31. Summer Palace takes diners to a journey through the courtyards and tranquil lakes of Summer Palace, Beijing. In perfect harmony with this majestic setting is the authentic menu featuring over 120 entrees and more than 40 dim sum choices. For inquiries and reservations, call 633-8888 extension 2738 or 2739.

Rainy nights at Linden



YOU DON'T need to wrestle with metro traffic or rain-slicked roads on that out-of-town trip just to recharge. Let The Linden Suites pamper you.

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Spend your rainy nights at The Linden Suites and experience the difference. Avail yourself of local residents' rates for as low as P3,400++ for an executive room. Suites' rates start at P3,600++ for a studio; P3,800++ for a one-bedroom deluxe; P4,500++ for a one-bedroom executive; and P6,500++ for a two-bedroom suite.

For inquiries and reservations, call 638-7878 or log on to www.lindensuites.com.

Republic of the Philippines
City Government of Zamboanga
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
City Hall, Zamboanga City
Tel No (062) 992-7763

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Zamboanga through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Association (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract.

	Name of contract (By Cluster)	Location	Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Contract Duration
1	Construction of Covered Shed at Commercial Center, Bagsakan	Sta Maria, Zamboanga City	Construction of roofed shed & stalls, calling for masonry, carpentry and electrical works with painting	P6,451,500 00	One Hundred Fifty Seven (157) Calendar days
	TOTAL APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT			P6,451,500.00	

Prospective Bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the (Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discrebonary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR)

The schedule of BAC activities are as follows

	BAC Activities	Schedule
1	Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	August 27, 2005 to September 9, 2005
2	Issuance of Eligibility Forms	on or before September 9, 2005
3	Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	on or before September 9, 2005
4	Eligibility Check	September 13, 2005
5	Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	September 14, 2005
6	Issuance of Bid Documents	September 15-16, 2005
7	Pre-bid Conference	September 17, 2005
8	Receipt and Opening of Bids	September 30, 2005

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at BAC Secretariat Office, City Hall, Zamboanga City, upon their submission of LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of P100 for Contractor's Registry to the City Treasurer. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the same address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P3,000.00 to the City Treasurer

The City Government of Zamboanga assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids

Approved by:

(Sgd.) VIRGINIA SAN AUGSTIN GARA
BAC Chairman

(PDI-August 29, 2005 & September 6, 2005)

ICT players at Comddap Expo 2005

THE BIGGEST industry players in information and communications technology, telecommunications, and consumer electronics will converge for Comddap Expo 2005, the country's largest technology event and selling exhibit from Oct. 6 to 9 at the Comddap Tent in Fort Global City, Taguig City.

Sponsor-companies Canon Marketing Philippines Inc, Epson Philippines Corp, Microsoft Philippines Inc, Samsung Electronics Philippines Inc, Sony Philippines Inc, Toshiba and Wordtext Systems Inc lead some 50 exhibitor-firms that will offer hundreds of computer, digital and entertainment products, latest IT gadgets and accessories, and business solutions and services to corporate buyers, small and medium-scale enterprises, local techies, personal users and students, mostly at special Expo rates.

Initially signed up companies include Astech Pengson Distributors Inc, ATP Peripherals Philippines Inc, Columbia Global Photo Sales, Eastern Telecoms, Eastgate Computer Corp, Eastern Telecoms, E-Methods for Business Management, E-Novation Digimer Corp, Goldtech International Distributors Inc, IGlobe Technology, Lamco International, Microdata Systems Management Inc, Microwarehouse Inc/Linksys, Nexus Technologies, Inc, PC Trends Inc, PLDT, Poly Asia E-Technology Philippines Inc, Redwood Ventures Inc and Trinity Marketing Inc.

Event organizer Computer Manufacturers, Distributors and Dealers Association of the Philippines (Comddap) expects to top its last year's visitor turnout of more than 40,000 as it extends the event to four days and moves to a bigger, dedicated, more comfortable and accessible venue within the Fort Global City this year.

Comddap Expo 2005 visitors and guests, more than half of which are trade and enterprise buyers who plan their ICT requirements for next year, will enjoy the convenience of a spacious and well-planned exhibit venue as they interact face-to-face with technical and marketing specialists from exhibitor-firms.

Participating companies will offer their best bargain deals, special bundling and trade-in promotions, discounts for bulk and packaged purchases, product giveaways, and numerous items to be raffled off during the four-day event.

They will also conduct hands-on product demonstrations and onsite tests on their latest computer hardware and software products, IT peripherals, mobile devices, business solutions and other technologies for home and office use.

On its 19th year, Comddap Expo 2005 once again raises the bar on local exhibition standards by putting up its own exhibit venue on a huge open space to ensure utmost convenience and comfort for both exhibitors and visitors.

The 2,000-sqm Comddap Tent, which offers thrice the display space compared to last year's venue, will be built at the center of an 11,000-sqm Comddap activity lot at Central Gateway 1 (CG1) of Fort Global City. The venue is close to SportsKamp and The Fort's StopOver dining and entertainment center.

"Comddap has taken an aggressive and strategic decision to hold another record-breaking gathering of leading vendors and technology buyers in a huge venue where visitors can experience innovative and creative booth executions," said Gigi Ngui, Comddap treasurer and Expo 2005 chair.

Ngui added the Comddap Tent's floor plan is designed to optimize traffic flow to all exhibit areas while a central stage accommodates on-the-floor exhibitor demonstrations of products and services, daily raffle draws of major prizes, IT guests and other activities lined up each exhibit day.

A 200-sqm technology update hall will also be built where industry experts and exhibitors conduct technology seminars and updates for their products and solutions. Separate tents will house an exhibitors' lounge and a dining hall for both visitors and guests.

The annual event offers free admission to the public. Ample parking slots will also be provided free of charge to visitor attendees and exhibitors. There will also be complimentary shuttle service daily to and from the Comddap Tent and assigned pick-up and drop-off points at the Ayala Center and within The Fort Global City.

One of the highlights of Comddap Expo 2005 is "Flash Festival 2005", a digital animation contest sponsored by Macromedia, maker of Rich Internet Applications to e-learning solutions that allow enterprises to strategically manage increasingly complex Web applications, analyze results and generate measurable returns on investments.

The competition aims to recognize the country's multimedia online and animation industries by providing a venue to showcase the creative work of local artists, professional illustrators, hobbyists and students using Macromedia Flash Mix 2004 Professional and Studio MX 2004.

Supporting Comddap Expo 2005 are Chase Technologies Corp, Imatech Corp and PLDTmyDSL. Media Partners to date are Computerworld Philippines, Directories Philippines Corp, Hardware Zone Philippines, PC Buyer's Guide, PC World, Speed Magazine and Yehey.com.

As a non-stock, non-profit ICT group, Comddap has organized about 27 computer and technology shows over the past 19 years to raise funds to support its various socio-civic projects.

These include hands-on computer training for public school teachers, short-term computer scholarship programs, and donations of desktop PCs, software and other products to public schools in Metro Manila. The group hopes to put up a Comddap Learning Center for the benefit of the general public.

For further details, call Gina Dimayuga through the Comddap Expo hotline at 750-9456, fax 815-6531, e-mail ginavildim@comddap.org/exhibit@comddap.org/ info@comddap.org or log on to www.comddap.org.

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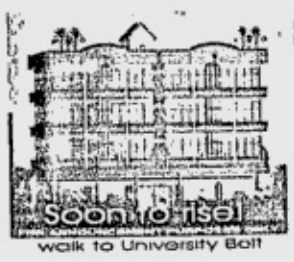

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MANDALUYONG NR SHAW Bnew1 bdrm/3stry/3br/3-4tb/mdsrm/1-2grge P3.645M up 8903461 loc 34,33 & 32

RUSH SALE WACK² TWIN TWR 3Bedrooms, Nice View 145sq m 1Parking Php5.5M CP#0918-4762278

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

30K MAKATI 1BR SF BNEW CONDO PRKNG,POOL,GYM 24TH FLR 09209602940

CC9 STUDIO FULLYF 8127760

Grnbelt Condo
885-7267 • 0917-5342027

LEGASPI/SALCEDO 1-2-3BR P20-80T/mo 8894796 ; 6475

MANILA

NR LASALLE 3BR 3TB 8992140

MANDALUYONG

2BR Condo 2Level 2TB Furnished 20K Mandaluyong Near EDSA • 0918-9358392

SHAW TWER 32m² 8127760 P10K

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

PASAY

ANTEL CVIEW F/F 1BR 09175022722

ROOM & BOARD

BF P'QUE P2001 8275345

BIG RmTB PHILAMQC 9265582

•FURNISH PASAY 8872665•

P1501 Manila 7836781 Daily, Wkly 09228321888

BEDSPACE

Mkti nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8974697

Resdn'l/Furnish 2PerRm Male Single Bed T897-3770

BUSINESS RENTAL

Dental Clinic For Sale/Lease Rm224 Atrium Bldg Makati • 811-4071/823-6047 •

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

RESORT LEASE/ RENT

Pansol Hot Spring priv 7767507

LOAN & MORTGAGE

1.4% MONTHLY 8976644-46
LAS PINAS 8054326 / 6342
QUEZON CITY 3730239-40
CAINTA/PASIG 2401300/3500
LLOYDS FINANCING CORP.

BUSINESS . DOCTOR 524-3197

BUILDING FOR LEASE

Warehouse 1200m² 634-1212

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

AYALA/LEGASPI/SALCEDO 20; 57; 90; 180; 450; 1200m² P250-450/m² 8896475 ; 4796

COMM'L/OFFICE SPACES FOR LEASE (58m² - 627m²) 8876003

Mkt Plc G/F 100m² 0918-9275418

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

TEKTITE TableSpaceLea631-4657

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CONDO/TWNHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

PACIFIC PLAZA SPECIALIST
Furn / Unfurn 0918-9392979

CDC
Clark Development Corporation
Republic of the Philippines

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

"PRIVATIZATION OF THE FORMER MIMOSA REAL ESTATE"

Clark Special Economic Zone, Pampanga

The Clark Development Corporation now invites investors to participate in the bidding for the privatization of the former Mimosa Resort Estate and operate the existing facilities thereat.

The tender documents will be issued to the prospective bidder upon submission of their Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (Php50,000.00) in the form of cash or manager's check.

The bidding will be governed by the following schedules:

Issuance of Tender Documents and Submission of Letter of Intent	September 5, 2005 until November 3, 2005 (9am to 4pm)
Submission of Eligibility Documents	Up to November 10, 2005 (9am to 4pm)

Interested parties may secure the tender documents and submit their Letters-of-Intent (LOI) at the Bids and Awards Secretariat, Second Floor, Bldg. 2127 C.P. Garcia Street corner E. Quirino Ave., CSEZ, Pampanga.

Only those who are found eligible shall be notified of the schedule of Pre-offer Conference and the Submission and Opening of Offers thru the issuance of bid bulletins.

CDC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications or offers without offering any reason, and to annul the bidding process and reject all offers at any time prior to contract award without incurring any liability to the affected proponent; to waive any formality, informality and/or defect and to make an award to the proponent whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. CDC does not guarantee that an award will be made.

All letters and inquiries shall be addressed to:

VICTOR JOSE I. LUCIANO, CHAIRMAN
SPECIAL BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
c/o Bids and Awards Secretariat
Clark Development Corporation
Bldg. 2127 C.P. Garcia St. corner E. Quirino Ave.,
Clark Special Economic Zone, Pampanga
Telefax (045) 599-7028
Email: bacsecretariat@clark.com.ph

(Sgd.) VICTOR JOSE I. LUCIANO
SBAC Chairman

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ang Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBLITY AND TO BID

[Re-bidding for the PKM (In-country) Upgrade Project]

1. The Department of National Defense (Armend Forces of the Philippines), through the General Appropriation Act and the AFP Modernizaiton Program Act Trust Fund, intends to apply the sum of ***TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY EIGHT MILLION PESOS (Php288,000,000.00)*** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Upgrade of Two (2) Patrol Killer Medium (PKM) Wildcat Gunboats** of the Philippine Navy. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. The DND/AFP now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the **UPGRADE OF TWO (2) PATROL KILLER MEDIUM (PKM) WILDCATS GUNBOATS** of the Philippine Navy. The expected contract duration is 240 CALENDAR DAYS. The description of an eligigible Bidder is contained in *Section II* of the Bidding Documents. ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the *Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No.9184 (R.A. 9184)*, otherwise known as the *"Government Procurement Reform Act,"* and is open to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to *Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183)* and subject to *Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138)*. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in *Section II* of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the *Lowest Calculated Bid* (LCB) shall advance to the *Post-Qualification Stage* in order to finally determine responsivess of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the *Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder* (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualificaiton procedure.

4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *DND Bids and Awards Committee* (BAC) *Secretariat* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address specified below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below starting **August 22, 2005** upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of ***Thirty Thousand Pesos (Php30,000.00)*** in cash or thru cashier's check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

6. The *DND/AFP* will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on *September 22, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at the Silid Panday Pira, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*

7. **Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted to the address below on or before** *9:00 a.m of October 6, 2005.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the forms and corresponding amount allowed under RA 9184 and its IRR-A. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

8. **Bids opening shall be on October 6, 2005 at 9;00 a.m.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who chhose to attend at *Silid Panday Pira, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*

9. To facilitate eligiblity checking, manufacturers and/or prospective bidders who wish to participate in the public bidding may apply for registration with the DND BAC, through the DND BAC Secretariat, at least fifteen (15) days before the scheduled submission and opening of bids for the procurement of the projects they wish to participate in, pursuant to DND BAC Cir. 01-2005 (download availabe at the website specified below) dtd 12 May 2005.

10. The DND/AFP resrves the right ot accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

DND BAC Secretariat
Armed Forces of the Philippines
Mondernization Program Management Office
3/F Bulawang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo
Quezon City, Philippines 1110
Tel. No: (632) 911-6001 local 6481
Telefax No. (632) 912-9541 / 421-2327
Email: pid@info.com.ph
Website: www.info.com.ph/~afpmod

(Sgd.) UNDERSECRETARY JOSE F. SANTOS
Chairman, DND-BAC

(PDI- August 22 & 29, 2005)

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Republic of the Philippines
Provision of Security Services

Security Service Requirements for the John Hay Special Economic Zone (JHSEZ) and the Camp John Hay (CJH) Reservation

1. The John Hay Management Corporation (JHMC) a subsidiary of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), through its 2006 OPEX Fund intends to apply the sum of Ten Million Three Hundred Seventeen Thousand Pesos Philippine Currency (PhP 10,317,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Security Services of JHMC. Bids lower than the approved PADPAO rate per guard or higher than the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The JHMC now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Security Service Requirements for the JHSEZ and CJH Reservation. Delivery of the security services is required by January 1, 2006. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instructions to Bidders (ITB)
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure
4. Interested Bidders must submit their Letter of Intent (LOI) on or before September 9, 2005 and may obtain eligibility requirements at the address given below from September 5 to 9, 2005 (Monday to Friday), 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Deadline for submission of Eligibility documents is on September 12, 2005, 4:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by eligible Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (PhP 10,000.00) from September 22 to 26, 2005. The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The JHMC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all eligible / interested parties on September 28, 2005, 1:30 p.m. at the JHMC Conference Room, Camp John Hay, Baguio City.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 12 noon of October 11, 2005. *All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form:*
   a. Cash, manager's check, cashier's check, irrevocable letter of credit, or bank draft – one percent (1%) of the Approved Budget for the Contract amounting to PhP 103,170.00
   b. Bank Guarantee – one and a half percent (1½ %) of the Approved Budget for the Contract amounting to PhP 154,755.00
   c. GSIS Surety Bond – two and a half percent (2½ %) of the Approved Budget for the Contract amounting to PhP 257,925.00
8. Bid opening shall be on October 11, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. at the JHMC Conference Room, Camp John Hay, Baguio City. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below
9. JHMC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE
John Hay Management Corporation
Francisca P. Moredo – BAC Chairman
JHMC Office, Camp John Hay, Baguio City
Tel No. (074) 444-5624
Email address: jhmgmtcorp@yahoo.com
Fax: (074) 444-3981

(Sgd.) FRANCISCA P. MOREDO
Vice President & COO
BAC Chairman

(PDI-August 29 & Sept. 5 2005)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
BID AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
(Head Office)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP) invites Consultants to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the Architectural, Engineering and Interior Design Consultancy Services for the proposed Space Rationalization, Planning and Furniture Standardization Project of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Main Complex.

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for this consultancy services is P11.0 Million.

The scope of the work includes among others the preparation of a space rationalization program based on the proper zoning of all BSP Main Complex departments and offices to be able to consolidate these into 1 or 2 buildings taking into consideration security and parking requirements and the new BSP Organizational Structure; the space planning and all related engineering works for the implementation of the Space Rationalization program of all BSP departments and offices including the preparation of plans, specifications and cost estimates for all necessary office relocation and renovation works; and the design and preparation of the technical specifications and layout of standard furniture for the BSP.

The minimum eligibility requirements are as follows:

1.0 The firm must have been in operation for the last fifteen (15) years (reckoned from the date of the first advertisement/posting of this Invitation).

2.0 The firm must have rendered within the last ten (10) years (reckoned from the date of the first advertisement/posting of this Invitation) Architectural, Engineering and Interior Design Consultancy services, at least five (5) completed projects of similar nature like offices, banks, exchanges and financial institutions of similar magnitude as the proposed BSP project and must be able to submit a certification of satisfactory performance for at least three (3) of the required five (5) projects.

3.0 The Principal or Managing Officer must be a Registered Architect with at least twenty (20) years experience in architectural design and coordinating team efforts in A & E design.

4.0 The firm must have at least one Registered Architect, Interior Designer and Engineer with at least ten (10) years design experience. (The key personnel must be a full-time employee of the firm. Otherwise, the declared key personnel must have participated in at least three (3) design projects with the same firm and must submit a deed of undertaking committing himself/herself to participate in the project on a full time basis, in case of award)

5.0 The firm (individual/partnership/corporation/joint venture) must be at least 60% owned by a Filipino citizen. (Foreign consultants must be registered with SEC and/or any agency authorized by the laws of the Philippines.

6.0 A consultancy firm with at least two (2) on-going and/or awarded BSP consultancy projects at the time of this invitation will not be allowed to participate in this consultancy service requirement.

7.0 In case of a joint venture, a valid joint venture agreement shall be required. The joint venture must have rendered A and E design Consultancy Services for at least two (2) completed projects of similar magnitude as the proposed BSP project.

8.0 For those firms with previous or current Design Consultancy Services with the BSP, a certificate of satisfactory performance issued by the Bank must be submitted.

The quality-cost based evaluation procedure stipulated in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA No. 9184 shall be adopted for this consultancy service requirement.

Eligibility documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat on August 31 to September 12, 2005 for a non-refundable fee of P500.00, Room 204, 2nd Floor, Five Storey Building at the BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Streets, Manila and must be submitted duly accomplished to the same office not later than 4:30 p.m. on September 16, 2005.

The provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations relative to the bidding and award of contract shall apply.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive defect or any formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any consultant/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obliged to compensate/indemnify the consultant for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) JOAN DE ZUNIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI-August 29 & September 9, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Healthline 637-9999 www.philhealth.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

RE-BIDDING FOR THE LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE FOR THE PHILHEALTH CENTRAL OFFICE
NO. 2005-005-G

The **Philippine Health Insurance Corporation** (PhilHealth), through its Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services (BAC-GS) wishes to re-invite duly licensed lessors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **Lease of Office Space for the PhilHealth Central Office** with the following specifications:

Location

The location of the building and/or office space for the PhilHealth Central Office shall be along Shaw Boulevard, and within the Five Hundred (500) meter radius from the Rizal Capitol, so as not to cause inconvenience to the PhilHealth clientele who are already familiar with the present location of its Office.

The location must also be within a Hundred (100) Meter radius from commercial banks and other government agencies.

The location must not be prone to flooding.

Space Requirement

The total rentable space requirement shall be from 10,600 sq.m. to 11,000 sq.m. including a space at the ground floor of around 320 sq.m to 350 sq.m. intended for the PhilHealth Members Assistance Center (PMAC). The office spaces must have a height from floor to ceiling of at least 2.4 meters.

The term of contract for the lease of office space shall be for a period of two (2) years, subject to renewal.

The approved budget for this Lease contract is **Php 66,612,000.00** coming from C.O.B. 2005. CY 2004-2005 is the relevant period for pertinent contracts to be submitted in this bidding.

Bid documents can be obtained, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Php 10,000.00** starting **August 29 to September 9, 2005** (Weekdays), 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees (OSBAC), Room 1107, 11/F PhilHealth Central Office, Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City.

A **Pre-Bid Conference** will be held on **September 12, 2005** at **1:30 p.m.** at Room 1804, OSBAC Conference Room, Room 1804, 18/F PhilHealth Central Office.

The **Submission of bids** will be on or before **10:30 noon of September 27, 2005** at the OSBAC Conference Room. The **Opening of Bids** will follow immediately at the same venue. Any bidder who comes late will not be entertained. The official time shall be based on the wall clock located at the OSBAC Conference Room. **Any bid submitted after the cut-off time will not be accepted.**

(Sgd.) ATTY. VALENTIN C. GUANIO
Vice President, Legal Service Group
Chairperson, BAC for Goods and Services

(PDI--Aug. 29 & Sept. 5, 2005)

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1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1Hour Car Loan 9153460
2%w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 8059454

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that estate of the late SPS. ANGELES and PRESENTACION LACSAMANA has been extrajudicially settled by thier heirs as Per Doc #155 Page #20,Book XXII Series of 2005 of Notary Public Rose Mary M. Austria
(PDI- Aug. 22, 29 & Sept 5,2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Elpidio S. Sison was extrajudicially settled among his heirs w/waiver of rights as per Doc.#5731, Service#21997, OR# 0070, of Consul General Mario L de Leon, Jr. of the Phil. Embassy, London, UK, Doc #2208, Page# 342, Book #IV, Series of 2005 of Notary Public Gerardo Wilfredo Alberto of Cavite City (PDI-Aug. 29, Sept. 5 & 12, 2005)

PERSONAL

Thank You Holy Spirit
From: Gemma Santos

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH 90, QUEZON CITY

IN THE MATTER OF: PETITION FOR REHABILITATION WITH PRAYER FOR SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS

SPECIAL PROCEEDING NO. Q-05-12

GLORIMART TRADING, INC.,
Petitioner.
X - - -

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Our Loving Daddy

Rear Admiral Romulo M. Espaldon

A beloved husband, father and grandfather.
A leader. A peacemaker. A gentleman.

Peacefully joined his Creator and our ***Mommy Eleanor***
on 27 August 2005 at the age of 79.

His children, **Romelea** and **Morsidy**, **Grace** and **Andrew**,
Romulo Jr. and **Migzilou**, **Cheryl** and **Caesar**,
Arleigh and **Curie**, and **Sherwin** and **Linda**;
and his brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces and grandchildren
request for your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz Sucat, Parañaque City.

Necrological services with Islamic rites will be held at 6:00 p.m. of Friday,
2 September 2005, at the Saint Ignatius Chapel, Camp Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Interment will be at 12:00 noon of Saturday, 3 September 2005
at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

Death Notices

Lolita B. Orqueza
peacefully joined her Creator on August 26, 2005.
Her body lies in state at the
Funeraria Paz, Quezon City.
Interment will be on August 30, 2005 at the Loyola
Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

—oOo—

Ng Lam
peacefully joined our Lord on August 25, 2005
at the age of 77.
His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial
Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Ave. Quezon City.
Interment will be on Thursday,
September 01, 2005.

—oOo—

Fernando G. de Jesus
peacefully joined his Creator on August 25, 200
at the age of 92.
His body lies at the family residence in
Barangay Carangian, Tarlac City.
Interment will be on August 31, 2005
at Tarlac Civil Cemetery.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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In Memory of Our Beloved

DAVID DE GUZMAN CRUZ

(June 26, 1925 - August 27, 2005)
of Navotas, Metro Manila

Peacefully joined our Lord at the age of 80.

His wife, Dr. Angeles Padilla-Cruz; children David Jr., Ivan, Mary Ann and Mary Jane; sons and daughters-in-law: Armand, Dante, Vangie and Lissa; grandchildren: Paolo, Katrina, Bryan, Miguel, Bianca, Miguel Antonio and Kyla request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday, September 01, 2005 at Navotas Municipal Cemetery. Time to be announced later.

"I have fought the good fight to the end,
I have run the race to the finish;
I have kept the faith" **(2 Timothy 4:7)**

JUDGE ROQUE D. EDMILAO (Ret.)

of Cagayan de Oro City

Peacefully joined our Lord on August 26, 2005 at the age of 87.

Devoted husband of the late **Ester Roa**

Loving father of **Roquesa "Baby"** and **Rolly de Castro**, **Betsy**, **Boy** and **Remy**, **Dong** and **Linda**, **Chito** and **Baby Flor**, **Apple** and **Tony Quizon**, **Ditas** and **Bert Gualberto**.

Beloved Lolo of his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

His family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Greenhills Memorial Homes, Cagayan de Oro City. Interment will be on Thursday, September 1, 2005 at the Greenhills Memorial Park, Cagayan de Oro City.

AMPARO KALAW DEL ROSARIO

Died peacefully on August 27, 2005
at the age of 68.

Her loving husband Dr. **Romualdo M. del Rosario**; children **Edwin** & **Jenny**, **Luisito** & **Sol**; grandchildren **Janella**, **Darwin**, **Migo**, **Gio** & **Igy** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 11, South Wing, La Funeraria Paz, Q.C.

Interment will be on Wednesday, August 31, 2005 at
Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

YU SAM
a.k.a. THOMAS YOUNG

Founder, Long Distance Trading

who has joined his wife, "Berta" and peacefully rests
in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord
on August 17, 2005 at the age of 91.

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, and who in countless ways condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." — John 3:16

Kepco advancing $50M for Transco submarine cable project

By Abigail L. Ho

KEPCO Philippines Corp., the country's second largest independent power producer, will be advancing $50 million to bankroll the implementation of the National Transmission Corp.'s (Transco) Luzon-Mindoro submarine cable project.

Transco president Alan Ortiz said the firm committed to invest in the project "to create a market for Ilijan."

The IPP has earmarked $450 million to add another 600 megawatts (MW) to its existing 1,200-MW Ilijan natural gas-fired power plant in Batangas.

Market

Kepco chair and chief executive Han Joon Ho said in an earlier interview that work on the Ilijan expansion would begin by late next year.

For the project, he said Kepco would be working with the same partners it had for the existing Ilijan plant.

Apart from Kepco, which has a 51-percent share in the Ilijan plant, other shareholders include Mirant Philippines Corp., Kyushu Electric Power Co. Inc. and Mitsubishi Corp.

Han said funding for the project would either come from project financing or an equity infusion by Kepco, depending on the financial environment.

Advances

For the submarine cable project, Ortiz said Kepco would only be advancing the funding for it so it could already be constructed at the soonest possible time.

Transco would repay Kepco's investment by offsetting this with future transmission charges, he said.

Apart from the submarine cable project, he said Transco would also be putting in place the Mindoro-Semirara line.

He explained that a mine mouth power plant could be constructed on the mine site to help augment the country's power supply.

The plant could have a capacity of between 200 MW and 300 MW, he said.

The Semirara mines are the country's premiere coal source.

With world oil prices escalating, the National Power Corp. will reduce the use of oil-based power plants when possible.

In Luzon, oil-based power plants will cease to operate next month. Priority dispatch will be given to plants using other types of fuel, such as coal, geothermal and hydro.

Under Napocor's cost reduction measures, the state firm is encouraging the blending of imported coal with local coal.

Napocor president Cyril Del Callar said blending local coal resulted in savings of P33 million last year for the state firm.

He said the Mirant Corp.-run Sual plant now had 20 percent of its coal requirements coming from the local market. Bulk of the plant's coal requirements still came from China.

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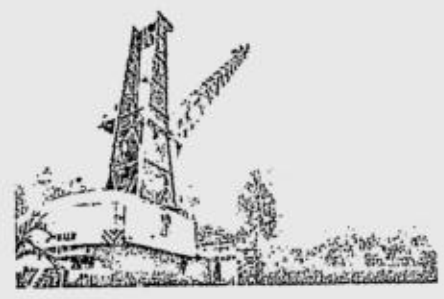

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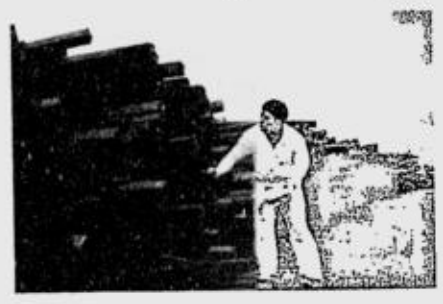
Zero pilferage



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With the new Harbour Centre, port standards are definitely uplifted and customer costs are greatly minimized.

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Zero Pilferage.
At Harbour Centre, you enjoy not just world-class facilities, but world-class security as well. The port has a highly efficient security system that meets the standards of the International Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code. The entire facility is well lighted, with 3 massive steel tower lights alongside the apron pavement.

More than 50 security personnel are strategically positioned all over the port to guard against theft and other suspicious activities.

Plus, to avoid any losses in pilferage, the port is also equipped with a 100-ton Chronic Truck Scale that monitors all incoming and outgoing cargoes.

Working space for 500 trucks.

The terminal has truck holding area that can fit 500 trucks all at one time, 50-meter wide roads for high volume cargo traffic, and an expansive back-up area for unhampered unloading operations. So you get enough cargo space for people to work in, and enough breathing space even on heavy days.

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BUSINESS Monday Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Tales of desperate Filipino housewives

By Arlene Aquino
Contributor, Strategic Planner, McCann Erickson

A LOT of truisms have been attached to the portrait that is painted of Mom: that she puts her family's needs first and hers last ... that her source of happiness is her family and that her world revolves around her children ... that she strives to juggle all her responsibilities as wife, mother and home manager. She has almost always been portrayed this way in many movies, telenovelas and commercials, giving her an aspirational character and inspirational role.

But does this portrait of the happily devoted, selfless person truly provide a complete view of the consumer segment many marketers rely on to get their products into Filipino homes? Leading advertising agency McCann-Erickson Philippines, through its McCANN PULSE insights program, thought it best to delve into the lives of married women and allow them to bare their hearts in a no-holds-barred chat.

Lumagay nga ba sa tahimik? It is not uncommon for Filipino women today to enter marriage with some kind of nagging fear. Whether it is a feeling of financial

TALES/ B2-2

Easier for you to build your dream home.

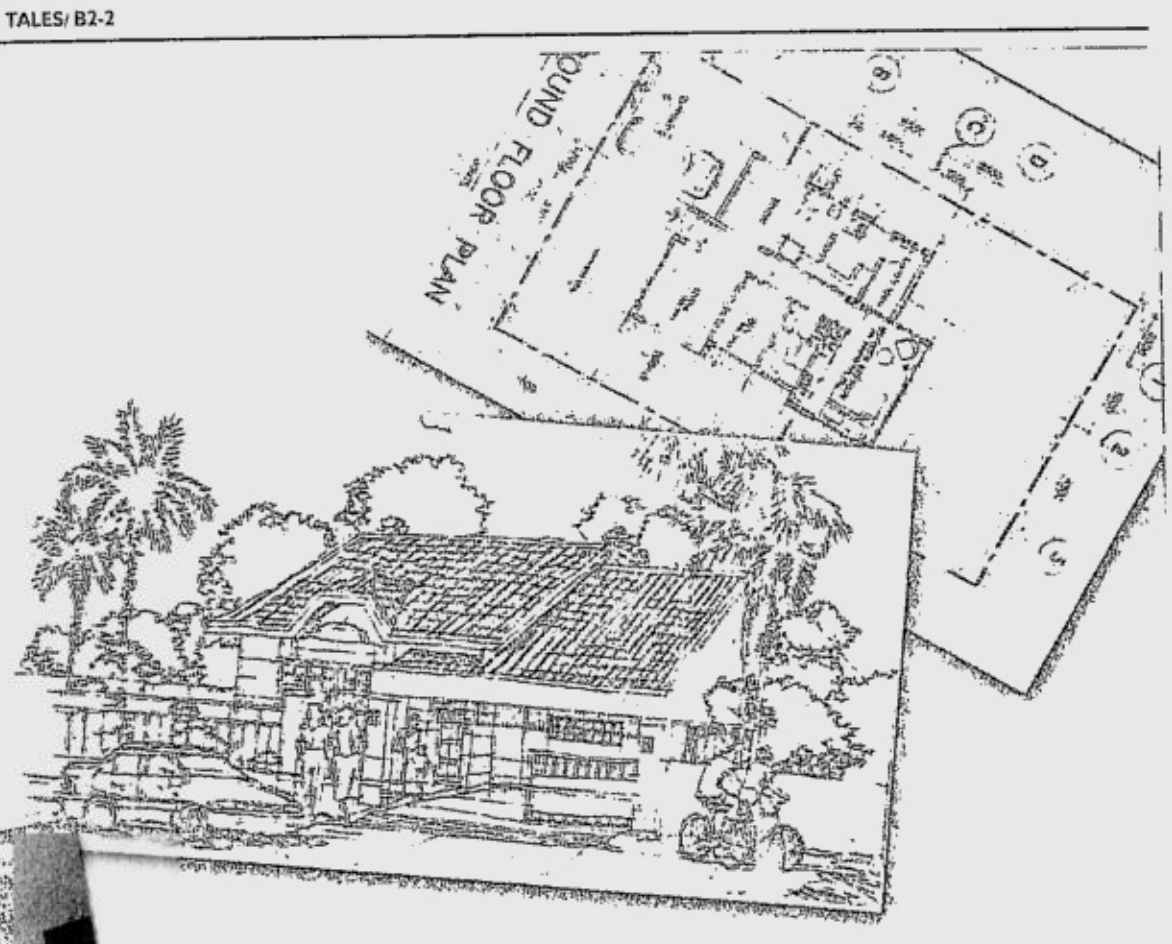
Celebrating BPI's 154th anniversary,
BPI Family Savings Bank is reducing its housing loan interest rates by 0.154%.
This offer will be good for the whole month of August 2005 only.
* Fixed for one year. Discount also applicable for 2, 3, 5 and 6-12 years fixed rates.

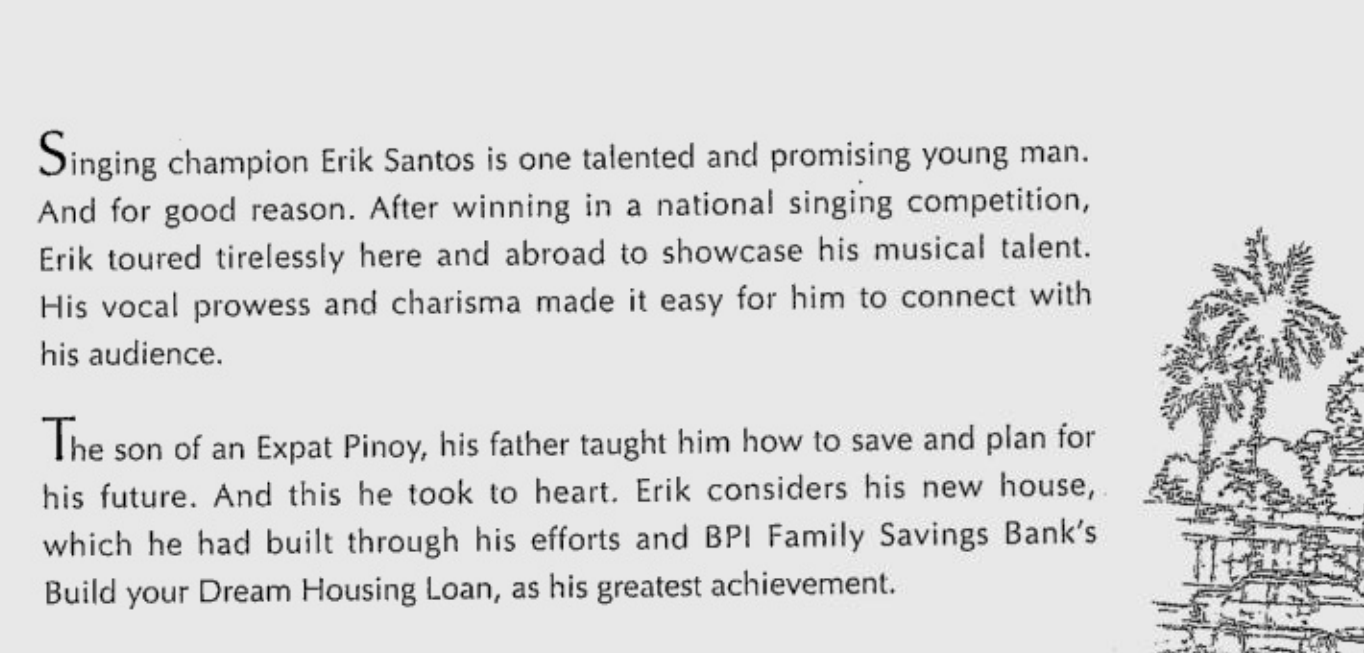
You can also get a chance to win a dream vacation to **Hong Kong Disneyland!**
For more information, call 8456888 or 89100, visit any BPI Family Savings Bank or BPI branch near you or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com.

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK
Get started on tomorrow.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1816 Series of 2005

Singing champion Erik Santos is one talented and promising young man. And for good reason. After winning in a national singing competition, Erik toured tirelessly here and abroad to showcase his musical talent. His vocal prowess and charisma made it easy for him to connect with his audience.

The son of an Expat Pinoy, his father taught him how to save and plan for his future. And this he took to heart. Erik considers his new house, which he had built through his efforts and BPI Family Savings Bank's Build your Dream Housing Loan, as his greatest achievement.





Geared on his future, Erik Santos signs his Build your Dream Housing Loan with BPI Family Savings Bank President Alfonso Salcedo, Jr. (to his right) and SVP Alberto Pascual (to his left). Looking on is Senior Manager Lap Azores.

He chose the perfect financial companion in BPI Family Savings Bank to build his family's house. With the Build your Dream Housing Loan's low interest rates and fixed terms, Erik is confident that he can focus on today to create an even brighter tomorrow.

22 years old and already the king of the castle he built, Erik Santos is definitely a champion in the eyes of his family, his fans and of BPI Family Savings Bank. Foresight, responsibility and true grit---traits that brought Erik Santos where he is now. Traits that BPI Family Savings Bank advocates for the young people of today who are starting on their tomorrow.

Build your Dream HOUSING LOAN

Getting started on his tomorrow.

Complexity and change

MAPPING THE FUTURE
Niceto S. Poblador

IT IS now commonplace to view many aspects of the real world as complex systems. Financial markets, political rallies, swarms of insects, and the weather all have the common attributes of complex systems. So do business firms and other forms of human organizations.

Complex systems are sets of interacting elements that collectively adapt to continuously evolving patterns that these elements themselves co-create.

For example, small and largely undetectable changes in wind direction, or a sudden increase in precipitation at some obscure location may trigger off changes elsewhere in the weather system to which all elements subsequently react. This creates still newer aggregate patterns in a never-ending cycle.

Broad patterns of past behavior of complex systems may be discerned from historical data. With adequate information on the current state of a system, the pattern of behavior in the immediate future may be predicted with reasonable accuracy.

This is done routinely by meteorologists with the help of powerful computer models.

However, changes in the values of specific variables behave in a manner that can only be described as erratic, and are certainly unpredictable.

One common characteristic of complex systems is that their behavior depends in large measure on their past history which frequently locks them into the less-than-desirable situations. While certain self-correcting mechanisms do come into play, they typically do so in a helter-skelter manner that moves the system into many uncertain twists and turns along the way. Their behavior through time is said to be path dependent.

One may argue that while the evolution of physical and biological systems is path dependent, this cannot be the case with human organizations which are typically guided by rational choices designed to move the system in preferred directions, if not directly to the most desired state.

There are many factors that prevent this from happening, however. One is the obvious limits to rationality. The other is what is known as positive feedback which tends to push the system into any of a number of possible directions. (By contrast, negative feedback tends to bring the system to a state of equilibrium.)

Contrary to conventional scientific thinking, complex systems seldom achieve steady states, if at all. For example, many economists have come to believe that for a variety of reasons, markets never achieve equilibrium, much less do whole economies.

In the same vein, economic agents never attain their optimum positions.

The choices that they make may be "optimal" in the sense that they conform with formally prescribed norms, but the results are seldom so. Setting its price equal to marginal cost, as prescribed by the standard economic model of the firm, never guarantees that a firm will maximize its profits.

More generally, business firms seldom achieve their formally stated strategic goals.

Here is why. Suppose a firm knows exactly what it has to do in order to, say, increase its total sales by 40 per cent over the next five years. After a careful evaluation of available data and applying the usual analytical procedures, it decides to acquire a company that produces a complementary product.

It is very likely that such a small initial step may trigger off unexpected reactions from all corners which may result in a far less-than-desirable outcome. By hindsight, the firm shouldn't have made the acquisition at all. While the move might have been "optimal" under the initial observed or assumed set of conditions, that very same move subsequently changed the values of a number of relevant variables and parameters, forcing the firm into a strategic cul-de-sac.

Because of high "switching costs," it finds itself locked into a patently undesirable situation. Unless it decides to fold up, the firm has to move on. However, its strategic options are understandably limited and constrained by its earlier moves.

This hypothetical situation serves to demonstrate that the movement from the present situation A to the desired one B does not proceed along a straight line. Firms cannot achieve optimality in one fell swoop by applying sophistical decision models and analytical tools. No sooner than a decision is made that the values of the relevant parameters change moving the firm yet to another sub-optimal position.

In the course of their evolution through time, path-dependence and the phenomenon of lock in produce biological, physical and social systems that are idiosyncratic. Each system is unique into itself.

In the world of business, no two firms are identical in all respects. It goes without saying that strategic choices should also be differentiated. No two firms, no matter how similar they are in all relevant aspects of their operations, should pursue the same strategies.

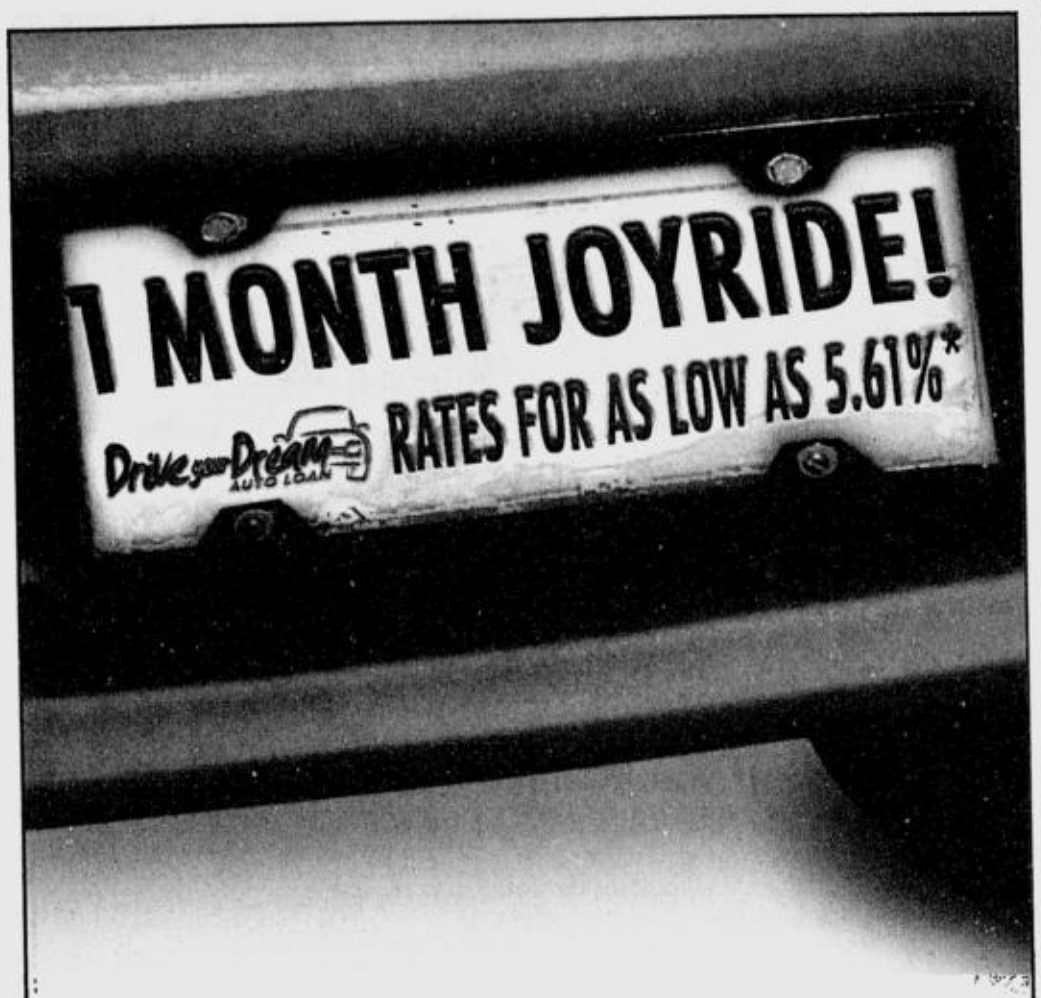
If this observation is correct, managers should be cautioned against their usual habit of adopting "best practices," or benchmarking their performance against those of successful establishments. Indeed, even their leadership styles need not conform to the stereotyped attributes of supposedly successful leaders.

All complex systems learn from their experiences. Learning enables systems to adapt successfully to ever-changing circumstances.

In the case of human organizations, learning from its immediate experiences gives its members a collective sense of meaning to the status quo. Organizational learning provides the organization with the absorptive capacity and competencies in the form of tacit knowledge by which to "nudge" the system into preferred routes.

This is the essence of strategy for complex organizations operating in even more complex environments.

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is a knowledge management consultant and former Professor of University of the Philippines. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)



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Hurry this offer will be good for the whole month of August 2005 only!

*The 5.61% applies for 1-year loan term. All interest rates for all other loan terms are likewise reduced by 0.154%.

You can also get a **Luggage2Go** package and a chance to win a dream vacation to **Hong Kong Disneyland!**

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1816 Series of 2005

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Tales of desperate . . .

From page B2-1

insecurity, a tinge of emotional unreadiness, or a feeling of slight animosity with future in-laws, it is only but natural that married women today recall having experienced some kind of baggage prior to the marriage.

However, a milestone within the marriage that stands out for many moms is the onset of parenthood. While this ought to be—and is indeed—a momentous occasion for husband and wife, parenthood can also signify something less desirable for many, especially those from the lower class: It opens a chapter in the marriage characterized by difficulties—difficulties that seem to set a negative tone that endures throughout the marriage.

He progresses his life. She puts hers on hold. The birth of the baby is a jolting factor to moms and dads, introducing them to the harsh reality of having larger-than-life responsibilities: *Hindi pala laro lang ang lahat*. With the emergence of new needs, the husband needs to find ways to progress with his job or business to address the growing financial requirements of the family. The wife, on the other hand, puts her life on hold and begins her life-long role of caring for the home.

The reality of the challenging life she now faces bites when the baby is crying and there are tons of chores to accomplish. Suddenly, she feels that her world has been reduced to the four walls of the house with the monotony of the mundane gnawing at her: *"Misis nga ang tawag sa akin, pero parang katulong ang papel ko. Sa araw-araw na lang, yun lang nang yun ang ginagawa ko!"*

Tales of a trapped housewife

Playing out her chosen life-role, a boxed-in feeling oftentimes sets in. She wonders to herself whether budgeting, changing diapers, cooking and washing clothes is all there is to her life. She longs for other activities that will serve as her mental treadmill, complaining of mental atrophy: *"Nabuburo ang isip ko sa bahay."*

Having to spend her days purely at home taking care of chores and the family's needs, she often finds no one to share her thoughts and feelings with for most of the day. Hence, the feeling of sensorial deprivation becomes heightened: *"Napapanisan ka na lang ng laway mag-isa."*

Feeling these same things over and over again makes her sick and tired that she wishes she could no longer feel them. *"Patang-pata na ako. Hindi ka na makaiyak minsan. Pati yun, nakakapagod na din."*

Haunted by thoughts of "what might have been." It is during moments at home doing chores that she has a lot of opportunity to ponder... about the past, the present, and the "what-could-have-been(s)" in her life, conjuring images of a parallel world she has chosen to let go for the family: "I could've finished my degree... I should have been working now and earning... I should be giving money to my parents and siblings."

Hearing about her former schoolmates—many of whom are gainfully employed and earning money—is no consolation for her. Their successes along with the similar stories of empowered women serve as a stark reminder of the kind of life she exchanged for the one she has now.

Apart from her friends, she feels no need to go very far to be reminded of what she is missing out on in life. In her mind, her body is in itself a poignant reminder and encapsulation of her life's insecurities.

Bituing walang ningning. Of her body she says: "Para akong pelikula ni Sharon... kumukupas ako." She has learned to admit that aesthetic deterioration comes with the territory. Her stretch-marks are the battle scars of motherhood. Her dry hands, unkempt hair, and expanding waistline are all stripes earned from being the devoted caretaker of the home.

She cannot help it that her brewing feelings of disillusionment, frustration and consequent guilt are projected into jealousy towards her husband who has the freedom to come and go and come up with the interesting things he has had for the day. She is seething in frustration and envy that his mobility comes at the expense of her own. It is for this reason that she seeks comfort and upliftment from other sources—her friends, and her children.

The *nanay* sisterhood. Somehow, talking to other women about their common sentiments and feelings is reenergizing for her. She feels relieved that she is not the only one feeling this way and that there is nothing wrong with honesty and vulnerability. This seems particularly helpful for those women who are antagonized and made to feel inadequate by their in-laws; she draws strength from this support system.

The husband substitute

Because her home management and caregiving abilities are the sole metric on which she gauges herself, she's on full-throttle in these aspects. Her role as a mother is emphasized while that of being a wife becomes deemphasized. She likes devoting more and more of her physical and emotional energy to her children as the wife-part of the woman looks to the child as primary source of companionship and love.

So with respect to her children, she has become a "careaholic." She feels she is never giving enough: *"Pinakamasakit na maaaring sabihin ng asawa ko yan, na wala akong kwentang ina. Dahil ibinigay ko nang lahat ... pati sarili ko kinalimutan ko na."*

Despite all the "demons" she faces in her life, there are things that fuel her resolve. For one, good memories are like milestones in the past that help sustain her for the future. It serves as her sanity bank from which she can draw strength and upliftment. She still sees the romantic glass half-full, hoping that one day soon she will once again have the love she used to know. A support group of like-minded souls also helps to validate and encourage her. The theme songs of her life—"What Matters Most," "Through the Years," "Kung Maibabalik Ko Lang"—help reflect her feelings. They are her fountain of hope, catharsis, inspiration and wisdom. And of course, her children, who remain to be the one true and good thing in her life, a constant reminder that all she's gone through is well worth it.

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Appraisal right

Corporate Securites Info
Raul J. Palabrica

WHEN a corporation is doing well, its stockholders are all praises for its management. Their complaints, if any, usually center on the amount of their cash dividends.

The mood turns ugly when the company's operations do not turn a profit and the awaited return on investment either becomes irregular or, worse, is indefinitely put on hold.

If management fails to come up with good reasons to explain the unexpected change of fortunes, some stockholders demand that they be allowed to withdraw from the corporation and get the cash equivalent of their shareholdings.

There's nothing wrong with this "abandon a sinking ship" attitude, opportunistic as it may appear to be. In the world of business, profit (and more profits) is the name of the game.

The stockholders with plenty of cash to spare have little to worry about if their investments do not meet their expectations. They can afford to ride out the glitch until things, hopefully, get better in the future.

But for stockholders who are not similarly situated, liquidation of the investment as soon as possible is often resorted to to stave off further diminution, if not eventual loss, of their hard-earned money.

Withdrawal

A stockholder has the right to pull out of a corporation if he feels his continued participation in its affairs will be hazardous to his financial health. Like the prohibition on involuntary servitude, no investor can be compelled against his will to maintain his holdings in a corporation.

That right, however, is not open-ended. The law limits the situations when a stockholder can offer to sell his stocks to the corporation and receive, in return, its market value.

The stockholder's "appraisal right," as this action is formally described in the Corporation Code, may be availed of in any of the following instances:

- The Articles of Incorporation are being amended in a manner that will change or restrict the rights of any class of shares, or make other shares superior to those that have already been issued, or extend or shorten the life of the corporation;
- The corporation decides to sell, lease, exchange, transfer, mortgage, pledge or sell all or almost all of its properties and assets;
- The corporation merges or consolidates with another corporation.

In these cases, the corporation is either changing the original nature of its corporate structure or allowing another party to take control of its operations.

If the stockholder disagrees with any of these corporate actions, he should speak up during its discussion and put on record his dissent. He has 30 days from the date of the corporate approval to demand the payment of the fair value of his stocks.

Fair value

This time frame is etched in stone. In case he fails to present his demand within that period, he shall be considered to have waived his appraisal right over the corporate action that is the subject of his dissent.

From the time the stockholder makes that demand, he loses all his rights as a stockholder and is reduced to the status of a creditor of the corporation.

The fair value of the dissenting stockholder's stocks is computed as of the day prior to the meeting when the action he objected to was approved by the corporation.

If the stock is traded in the stock exchange, its fair value can be easily determined from the sales figures released for the particular day. Some appraisal problems, however, may arise for stocks whose ownership is kept within the limited circle of the corporation.

Understandably, the dissenting stockholder will try to get the best price possible for his shares; for obvious reasons, the corporation will make every effort to depress the value of those stocks.

In the event the parties fail to agree on the valuation of the stocks within 60 days from the approval of the corporate action in dispute, the law requires the formation of a three-person committee to resolve the issue.

One of the committee members shall be named by the stockholder, another by the corporation and the third shall be chosen by the two members earlier selected.

The findings of the majority of the members shall be final and the award has to be complied with by the corporation within 30 days from its issuance.

Word of advice to shareholders who may want to avail themselves of their appraisal right: Before making the move, make sure the corporation has sufficient unrestricted retained earnings to pay for your stocks; if it does not, you may end up a frustrated creditor of your own company.

(For comments or questions concerning this article, you may write to (rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph)

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Wall Street's women still climbing uphill

From page B2-4

Without exception, women interviewed anonymously felt they or their colleagues could be fired or suffer other negative repercussions if they voiced a complaint.

"It's understood by anyone who puts herself in that position that her career on Wall Street is over," said attorney Elizabeth Grossman, who represented the EEOC in a suit against Morgan Stanley. Grossman and others also suggested that many of the selective firings and other moves made by Wall Street firms have been superficial "window dressing."

Try harder

To fill Wall Street's ranks with more women and improve their working environment, women argued for redoubled efforts at the recruiting level, better mentoring for new hires, and more in-house women's networks—though such networks got lukewarm reviews from younger women who felt they reinforced single-sex office dynamics.

Women agreed that employers should use more quantitative, metrics-based methods to evaluate performance and prevent favoritism and discrimination. And job candidates may want to focus on finding a niche in certain areas, like trading exotic instruments, said JP Morgan's Long.

Reuters

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BUSINESS Monday

A matter of trust

IN THE FALL of 1982, seven people in Chicago's West Side died after taking Extra-Strength Tylenol capsules that had been laced with cyanide.

When the deaths were linked to Tylenol, executives at Johnson & Johnson were faced with a monumental choice: Shirk responsibility and assert that the tampering had occurred after the product had reached store shelves, or hold themselves accountable for the entire disaster and take drastic steps to restore trust in their brand and their company.

They chose the latter.

They immediately told customers across the country not to consume any Tylenol products until they could determine the extent of the tampering. They halted all advertising and production of the brand. And they recalled all Tylenol capsules from the market—about 31 million bottles with a retail value of more than $100 million.

These actions, along with other steps Johnson & Johnson took when it reintroduced Tylenol later, helped restore the public's faith in the company. The fact that corporate leaders valued character more than their own success is a key reason why Johnson & Johnson was able to emerge from this crisis with its good reputation—and its most profitable brand—still intact.

You may not be guiding a large corporation through a national public relations nightmare, but maintaining the trust

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

of the people you lead is as important to you as restoring the trust of the American public was to Johnson & Johnson in the early '80s.

That's because leadership functions on the basis of trust; it is the foundation upon which every relationship--at work, at home, in the community or anywhere else—is built.

As the makers of Tylenol realized, trust isn't automatic; it must be earned. You can't demand it from others; you receive it. But you receive it only when you have three key attributes: Character, competence and consistency. These three must mesh together for you to build trust and receive trust from the people you are leading.

Of course, once you have the trust of your people, you have to maintain it. If you slack off and start thinking only of yourself, you'll betray that trust and your ability to lead will be severely compromised. Fortunately, there are certain steps you can take to keep that from happening. Here are a few:

1. Focus on shared goals more than personal agendas.

Never forget the fact that you are leading your company, office, team or department for the benefit of the people. When it comes to trust, it's not all about you.

2. Stay away from politics.

Let it be known that you can't be bought. Don't even think about going down that road.

3. Do the right thing regardless of personal risk.

If doing what's right causes you to get hurt, then grit your teeth and take the pain. That's what it means to be a leader.

4. Be accountable to others.

Don't rely solely on your own judgment to keep you on track. Ask a few trusted colleagues or mentors to keep tabs on how you're doing in all these areas.

5. Follow the Golden Rule.

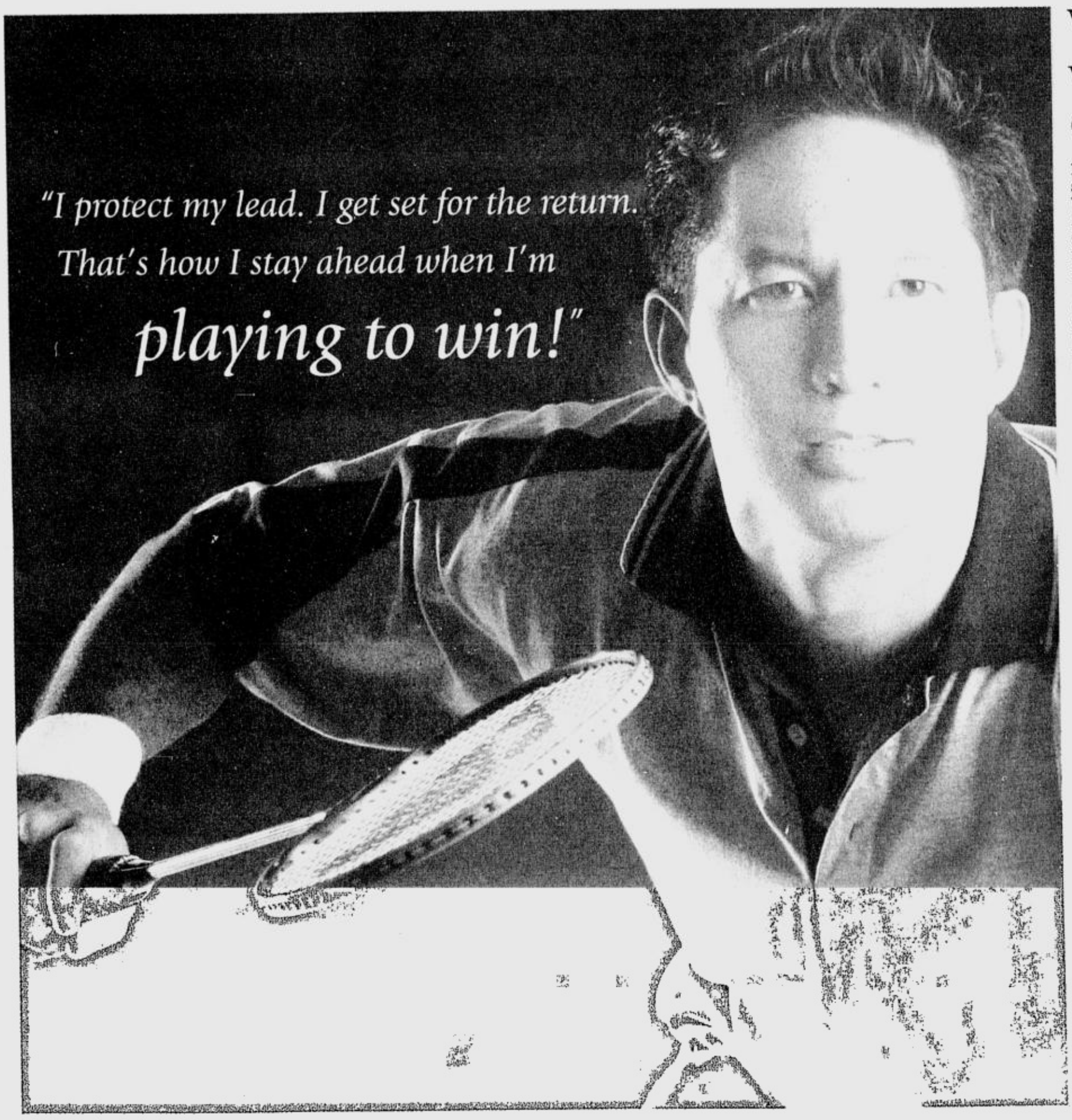
Treat people the way you want to be treated. It's that simple.

6. Make sure what you say matches what you do.

This is, by far, the best way to earn and maintain the trust of the people you're leading. On the flip side, the quickest way to betray their trust is to say one thing and do another. If you want a concrete example of this, I have one word for you: Enron.

Next time you visit your local pharmacy, swing by the over-the-counter painkillers aisle and survey the number of products that bear the Tylenol brand. Burn that image in your mind and call it up occasionally, just to remind yourself about the importance of trust in your role as a leader.

As Warren Bennis says, "Without [trust], the leader cannot function."



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Wall Street's women still climbing uphill

PHILADELPHIA—Plenty of women have staked prominent claims as rainmakers on Wall Street. But they say numerous factors, from sexual discrimination to a lack of interest from recent graduates, have kept their numbers frustratingly low, leaving one of the industry's best assets just partly tapped.

Half of the students at law and medical schools are women, but at US business schools, their numbers hover around only 30 percent. That translates into a thinner pipeline of women heading into investment banking, private equity and other post-MBA financial careers.

In areas like sales and trading, recruiters often pick students straight out of college. But there, too, lie hurdles, because far fewer than half of the undergraduates interested in such careers are women.

"I wish there were more," said Suzanne Nora Johnson, Goldman Sachs' co-vice chairman. "There's no reason why at the entry level, it shouldn't be at 50 percent across the board."

Angie Long, who runs JP Morgan's high yield and credit derivatives trading in New York, has been recruiting women to the bank since 1997. But she said that while women make up nearly half their sales division, the number of female trading recruits has risen only slightly.

Long, one of only two women to make Trader Monthly magazine's list of Top 100 Highest Earning traders, manages one woman on her trading desk of 12.

Women interviewed by Reuters cited a host of reasons for the lack of enthusiasm, from "men's locker-room" attitudes to the infamous 90-hour work weeks that deplete their quality of life so greatly even high salaries can't offset it.

Retention problems push the numbers even lower, as banks struggle to keep women who want a better balance between life and work.

"It is frustrating when people drop out, and it's very difficult to get back in," said Candace Browning, Merrill Lynch's head of global securities research and economics.

It's best to be the best

The challenges don't stop once women land the job—they're then forced to assimilate into the hyper-masculine culture still prevalent on trading floors and in bullpens.

"Men walk out of their frat house in college and into a bigger frat house," said Ellen Schubert, who runs UBS' global foreign exchange hedge fund business. "It's hard for women to find natural mentors in a male-dominated business,"

For women who have reached Wall Street's aeries, that apparently hasn't been a big problem. They cited few if any instances in which they felt disadvantaged because of stereotypes about their sex.

"The worst offensive elements of the "Old Boys' Club" have really diminished, meaning people being openly ridiculed or proactively excluded from things," Goldman's Johnson said. And JP Morgan's Long said that stereotypes haven't hurt her career.

"It's not that it's never an issue, but I don't run into it very often," Long said. "I manage a desk of 12 junk bond traders, which is a market where you'd expect it to be an issue—but it hasn't affected me." Further down the corporate ladder, that sentiment shifts.

Sexual discrimination and harassment suits, which have been around for decades, continue to crop up. Legions of men still visit strip clubs with clients and take all-male golf or gambling outings. And that's hardly the extent of the problem.

Sources spoke of office chatter laced with sexual innuendo, unwanted advances by superiors, and managers who were fired for patterns of sexual harassment. They told of bosses who didn't hire qualified female candidates to "protect" them from being hit on by male managers and peers.

WALL/ B2-3

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

BUSINESS Monday Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Time to eat, drink, breathe, think and do entrepreneurship

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

THE CURE to most of what ails the Philippines can be spelled out in one word—entrepreneurship.

And one way the government and the private sector hope to spread this cure is through education.

Presidential Consultant for Entrepreneurship Jose A. Concepcion III recently organized a consultation and forum on Commission on Higher Education Memorandum Order 17-05 which prescribes the minimum curricular requirements for a Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship degree.

In his talk , Concepcion called for a need to come up with a different type of reality shows—the show of a successful entrepreneur; the creation of new types of superstars—the entrepreneurs.

Many in the forum view Concepcion now as the champion of entrepreneurship and have pinned high hopes on the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship which he hopes will be the institution that will promote entrepreneurship nationwide by enhancing education, fostering a culture of enterprise and providing a marketplace of innovations and best practices, spawning competitive Filipino entrepreneurs.

Concepcion was able to put together an impressive board of trustees—Tony Tan Caktiong, Joselito Campos, Felipe Gozon, Dr. Rolando Hortaleza, Socorro Ramos, Harley Sy, Vivienne Tan and Justin Uy.

ED Trinidad of University of the East with Jose Concepcion III

The forum—which gathered entrepreneurs, business groups, CHEd officials, educators and teachers—created a lively discussion and showed that the desire to eat, drink, breathe, think and do entrepreneurship is alive in many sectors.

CHEd Commissioner Saturnino M. Ocampo III said the new curriculum, which is set to be implemented for school year 2006-2007, lists the minimum course requirements for an entrepreneurship degree. It requires the students to set up a business in their senior year. Ocampo says the curriculum is not permanent and CHEd will keep on improving it.

Few choose entrepreneurship

Alberto P. Fenix, the CHEd chair on the Technical Panel for Business and Management Education, cited some interesting statistics:

The course with the biggest population is always Business Management Education. In school year, 2003-2004, 22 percent or some 558,000 of the 2.5 million enrolled college students, were taking up BME.

In school year 2002 to 2003, there were 111,480 graduates of BME. He said if all these graduates had gone into business, they would have generated 500,000 jobs and income of some P30 billion based on the minimum wage.

Unfortunately few choose the route of entrepreneurship. In fact, Fenix pointed out many of the colleges offering entrepreneurship courses have very little enrollees.

TIME TO EAT/ B3-2

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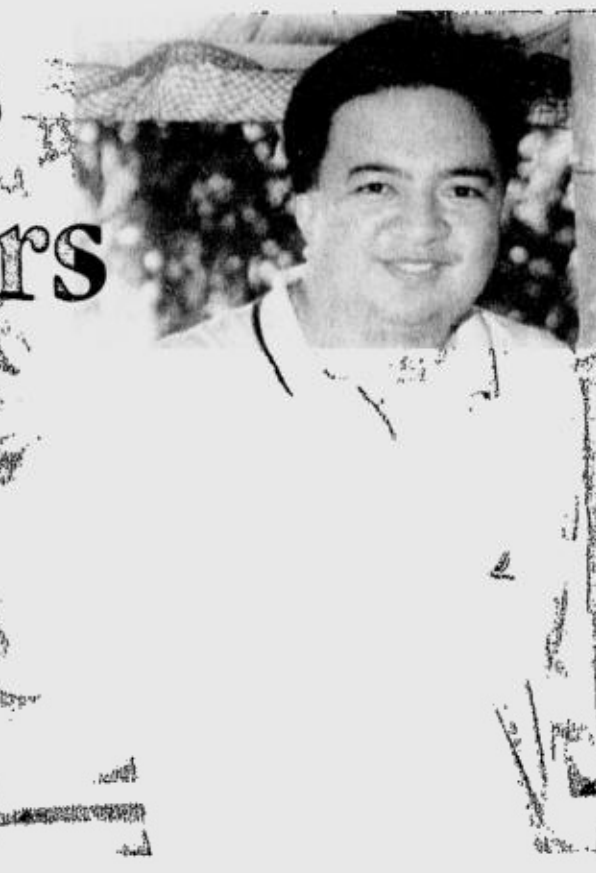
Lead and train employees to think like entrepreneurs



PILE

By Amy R. Remo

FOR PHOENIX Land Inc. president and COO Celedonio A. Pile Jr., instilling corporate discipline in an entrepreneurial environment has earned the company the trust of its clients.

"Entrepreneurs tend to have greater intensity, involvement and compassion for the business. And if this is the mindset of every employee, then the clients would feel that you really care," says Pile.

Thus, with the concept of innovative real estate entrepreneurship in mind, Pile leads and trains his employees to think like entrepreneurs—but implements policies, order and discipline, like that of any corporation.

And this is especially essential for a real estate company like Phoenix, whose employees are trained to handle the projects as though they own the company.

Pile adds that these traits are important since he can't keep an eye on Phoenix's more than 50 employees, all the time.

"That's why we want our employees to be like entrepreneurs. Having an entrepreneurial stand is solid and cannot be easily affected by challenges," explains Pile.

Entrepreneurs tend to do everything in the business by themselves. Thus, you can expect a person trained to be like one to be disciplined and well-rounded—precisely the kind of people Pile wants on his team.

Management Styles

"We usually hire generalists, rather than specialists. We emphasize multi-tasking—he must be able to do sales, forecasts and so on," explains Pile. "And we train them to continue being so."

And the way Phoenix has been set up reflects how it spurs an employee's entrepreneurial spirit.

Led by noted individuals from the real estate and investment banking sectors, Phoenix plans to venture into innovative and high-yielding projects that will create an impact on the real estate industry. Phoenix's strength lies particularly in commercial and residential resorts.

Currently, Phoenix Land is developing Las Haciendas Resort Farms, a 342-hectare development in Batangas. It is envisioned to be the premiere resort farm development in the Metro-Tagaytay area.

With management and consultancy firm Excore Inc. as the mother company, Phoenix is among the six development companies set up to handle specific projects.

Each company is led by a project director, while a CEO overlooks all the companies' activities.

"We treat each company as a small enterprise, letting it grow or collapse by its own," says Pile.

Thus, the people handling the project are given the responsibility to grow their own respective projects/companies, which would depend on how well or bad they perform—just like an entrepreneur who's starting or running a business.

Employees, however, are discouraged from crossing from one project to another, to maintain focus.

But like in any corporate setting, ground rules should first be set.

"First of all, it is critical that you get the right people to work for you," says Pile.

He adds that his employees should share his work ethic and values—otherwise, both parties can't expect a lasting working relationship.

"Phoenix employees, for instance, should highly value excellence, integrity, the desire to grow and the desire to become an entrepreneur," says Pile.

"You then have to set the parameters and make clear with the project director what needs to be done," says Pile. "We make sure to talk with and update each other all the time."

The project director should know how to position a project, know what kind of marketing should be involved, and so on.

According to Pile, after plans had been made clear, the necessary resources are now allocated.

And just like an entrepreneur, Pile says that you have to investigate first before taking on a project—"always keep your eyes wide open for competition."

"You have to first observe the market, identify an opportunity, track down your possible competitors, see what they're doing and then find a unique selling proposition for your company," says Pile. "We cannot afford to take risks. There's a lot of scientific work that needs to be done as well."

And this is a continuous process as employees are encouraged to always scout for opportunities.

"I believe there are many opportunities, if you only know where to hit," says Pile.

For Pile, giving growth opportunities to the employees makes the organization even more solid.

"You have to mold your employees in such a way that they can take over your position and responsibilities the moment you retire," says Pile. "This is one way of taking care and keeping your people loyal to the company."

Pile credits his management style to his experience as an executive prior to becoming an "entrepreneur" in Phoenix.

Until 1998, Pile was the senior vice president and marketing director of Landco Pacific Inc., where he handled the development of Canyon Woods Residential Resort—a 200-hectare subdivision and resort in Tagaytay.

After an eight-year stint with Landco, Pile set up Excore Inc. in 1999, where he is the president and CEO.

Excore offers real estate business planning, project packaging, marketing and general management services.

Its primary clients include Green Square Properties, Canyon Woods Residential Resort, Banco De Oro and Kawayan Cove. Consultancy revenue for 2004 reached about P50 million.

As of 2005, it has evolved into a holdings corporation, owning investments in six real estate subsidiaries, one of which is Phoenix. Excor owns about 20 percent of Phoenix.

Pile says he wouldn't have achieved what he has right now if he did not get a taste of the corporate world.

"I get to pick out the good things from the corporate world and integrate it with our own entrepreneurial slant," says Pile.

And for Pile, such a management style did not only earn him the trust of his customers, but also the success Phoenix is currently enjoying.

"I thought success would not come as early as this for Phoenix," says Pile.

Pile also credits his people for this success. It is the people, he says, that make all of these things happen. In fact, he plans to increase manpower to about 120 by the middle of next year.

And with a talented group of young and skilled people, who have track records and are trustworthy, Phoenix is set to establish a strong foothold in the once volatile industry.

"But we are still proceeding humbly and cautiously," says Pile.

There's money in window dressing

LITTLE is known of the fact, however, that Luxaflex offers business opportunities. Many dealers and distributors in the country, for instance, have already benefited from their partnership with the brand. With the Filipino's innate entrepreneurial spirit, this comes as no surprise.

"Luxaflex products are superior," states Mark Katigbak, the first Luxaflex dealer and distributor in the country. "The fact that they are present in many countries attests to the quality of their products."

Mark traded his investment banking job for a career in sales to spend more time with his family.

"My wife just gave birth to our first child and I wanted more time to spend with them," Mark says.

Still in his early 20s then, he founded a company called Lexicorp, which takes its name from his firstborn. The company initially marketed Italian tiles, the demand for which was not that high. This prompted Mark to look for other products to market.

"That was when I saw an ad of Hunter Douglas (the mother company of Luxaflex) in Architectural Digest. It featured a woman in a bathtub with a window in the background. On a hunch, I called their mother company abroad without even knowing what products they were trying to sell," he recalls, amused.

Mark got hold of Hunter Douglas's international sales manager who then referred him to the head of their Asian operations in Malaysia. "At that time, Luxaflex products were not yet available in the Philippines. The company was just in the process of setting up operations here," he says.

That was in 1996 and Mark recalls how difficult it was when he was starting. "I had to do house-to-house calls and product presentations in offices myself," he recounts. "But you can't become big if you don't start small. In fact, I still do this until now. It's a part of the job I enjoy. Sitting at a desk has never been my thing."

To show how serious he was in his venture, Mark even attended Hunter Douglas seminars and orientations in the US. In fact, he still does this up to this day to keep abreast with the company's latest products and services.

HUNTER Douglas is known the world over for its Window Fashions. The company, which manufactures Luxaflex blinds, shades and other window treatments, is present in around 100 countries.

Today, Mark is the most successful dealer of Luxaflex in the Philippines. He is a consistent "Windows to the World" awardee of Hunter Douglas. In fact, his name has already become synonymous with the brand that the country's top interior designers and architects look for him when they need a Luxaflex product.

To say that Mark's hard work, dedication and perseverance have been amply rewarded is an understatement. He now counts not just homes as his projects, but high-end coffee shops, restaurants, hotels, vacation homes, resorts and the offices of multinational corporations as well. The former investment banker has also been to places he never even thought he'd get to visit.

"I don't think I would have been in the many interesting places that I've been to, nor would I have met the personalities I've encountered at this point had I remained in the bank," Mark says.

Another Luxaflex dealer, Arlene Cerda of Ten-Up Marketing, believes that the best reward of her work is that she can afford to spend time with her family.

A full-time housewife and a mother of three, Arlene says she never imagined finding success in sales. "I'm not really a sales person," she says.

In fact, it was Arlene's husband who originally attended the training and seminar conducted by the Hunter Douglas team in the country back in 1997.

"So what I did was to look for a venue where I can market Luxaflex without having to do house-to-house calls and product presentations," she says.

Arlene was driving along the Manila Polo Club one time when the idea of joining bazaars hit her. "I thought that this might be the venue I have been looking for," she says.

That venture proved to be more than a profitable idea as she got her first client through it.

"An interior designer from Lipa got in touch with us and we did our first project in that city," she recalls.

Today, Arlene continues to bring Luxaflex products to a wider market through bazaars in hotels and other high-end locations. And her efforts have not gone unnoticed as Luxaflex awarded her with the "Most Innovative" award for her unique idea.

Arlene is quick to point out, however, that her success is not just due to her hard work alone. "Luxaflex has really good products," she says. "When I first saw them, I immediately believed in them and belief in the products you're selling is very important in sales."

Hunter Douglas also provides support to its dealers through product displays, brochures, samples, exhibits and exciting incentive programs.

For more info, e-mail luxaflex@hunterdouglas.com.ph or call (02) 453-3155, mobile 0920-924-9765, 0917-823-9241, 0922-808-9275.

Direct selling firms to boost industry with 'Hanapbuhay' Fair

THE DIRECT Selling Association of the Philippines (DSAP), in cooperation with ABS-CBN Broadcasting and Remspec Inc., is set to hold the first-of-its-kind three-day "Hanapbuhay" fair at the Megatrade Hall in SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City on Sept. 2-4, 2005.

"Hanapbuhay Kita, Atbp: The Business Opportunities and Career Enhancement Fair" presents business and career opportunities, products and services from the member companies of the Direct Selling Association of the Philippines and other select exhibitors.

"We in DSAP think that it is timely to hold the Hanapbuhay Fair to help boost the Philippine economy by providing income opportunities to Filipinos," said Jesus Buenrostro, DSAP director and head of special events committee.

The three-day event will feature training seminars and career enhancement workshops for the improvement of skills of experienced and first-time direct sellers, franchisors and entrepreneurs.

Expected to attend are the biggest names in direct, retail and business franchise selling, real estate, insurance, business process outsourcing and other companies who will showcase their profit making schemes to would-be investors, franchisees, corporate retirees and soon-to-be retirees, business financiers and other business solutions companies, recruitment agencies/dotcoms, members of OFW organizations, training centers, students, jobseekers and freelancers.

"We envision the 'Hanapbuhay Fair' to encourage Filipinos to be entrepreneurial and business-minded. We want people to realize that there still exist limitless opportunities to improve their income and their way of life," stated Desiree Joy Cabonce, CEO of Remspec Inc.

For booth and sponsorship inquiries, please call the Remspec office at 687-6140 to 41 or visit http://dsaptradefair05.businessfinderph.com

Math on real estate investing

THE URBAN Institute of Real Estate will conduct a seminar on "Mathematics of Real EstateInvestment" on Sept. 14, 1:30 to 6 p.m. at Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City.

The lecture will cover topics like explanation and sample problems on interest formulas, cash flow diagrams, present and future value, sinking fund, equal periodic payment, graduated periodic payments and its application to various real estate situations, how to prepare tables of value using computer and how to use table of values.

Call 681-0928 or cell phone 0916-426-9174 or email urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

Time to eat, drink, breathe, think and do entrepreneurship

From page B3-1

"There are not enough enrollees because the students are afraid they will not get a job when they graduate. A student who takes up entrepreneurship should be a job maker not a job seeker," said Fenix.

The forum got several reactors to give their insights and comments about the memo.

Asian Institute of Management professor and president of the University of Makati Tomas B. Lopez posed the question: Can entrepreneurship be taught?

Ultimately, his answer is, yes it can and schools are the best venues to do this. At the University of Makati, he said they did not create a course on entrepreneurship but subtly included it in existing subjects.

"We do not teach it directly, we embed it in the traditional curriculum," Lopez stated.

He points out that there is a need to clean out certain required courses in college. "Who needs the Pythagorean theorem? When was the last time you used this?"

At his university, Lopez said they have even created "accounting for *sari sari* stores. We have raised the level of small businesses."

At the same time, Lopez said "multimillion earners are needed to drive the recruitment. We have to nurture and help to move forward those with great ideas."

He added that a different breed of faculty is needed. "Teaching and learning entrepreneurship is different. It requires a different set of values. There is a need for faculty development.

And Lopez observed—to have a successful entrepreneurship campaign, it must be coupled with an advocacy campaign.

Mindset change

Rommel T. Juan, president of Binalot Fiesta Food Inc., said that there is a need to change the mindset of Filipinos. He cites that in Hong Kong, when people meet you, it is natural for them to ask what business you are in. "Here in the Philippines, we ask what's your *tsismis*?"

Juan, who started getting into business when he was already 24, said he feels he was too old when he became an entrepreneur. "It would be good to start or set up something as early as high school. You start with the resources you have."

Juan added that there should be more courses on human resource management in the BS Entrepreneurship course.

Another reactor, Danny A. Cabulay, president of the Entrepreneurship Educators Association of the Philippines and a dean of the Institute of Accounts, Business and Finance at the Far Eastern University, had about 14 comments about the proposed curriculum which included inclusion of basic accounting, change in the names of courses to make them more relevant, risk management, product development and innovation, technopreneurship.

Education is important

The highlight of the day was the talk of Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year and general manager of National Bookstore. She is over 80 years old.

"Education is important. It took me 62 years to have 70 branches of National Bookstore. If I had studied, it would have taken me 10 years only."

Nanay Coring, as she is fondly called, talked about the changing times but she said "you have to master the changes and cope with the changing world and the changing environment."

"Entrepreneurs share many qualities whether they are small from the province or big and based in New York. They are hard working, have perseverance, commitment, passion. They have the natural ability to find solutions to challenges.

"Their reasons for starting a business are different. Mine was out of necessity but they always have stories."

For National Bookstore, she said they always try to give customers what they want, always come up with new products, and always offer products at the best price.

The sign of a good entrepreneur is anticipating what will happen. "You should prepare. And you should save some of your profits, love your work and love your family."

Good prospects for banana farmers in Cagayan Valley

ROXAS, Isabela—Banana farmers in Cagayan Valley are cashing in on the technology-tested banana production to meet the surge of export market demands for lakatan, Cavendish and Bongolan varieties of banana.

Dr. Billy Temanel, extension and training services department head of the Quirino State College, says a large door of opportunities is open for banana farmers planting lakatan, Cavendish and Bongolan varieties because of the continued surge of market demand for tropical fruits caused by the growing awareness of the need for a healthy diet.

He said the banana industry would benefit from the opening of the China and Hong Kong markets and the proximity and market advantage of the region to Metro Manila and other urban areas.

Temanel expressed these prospects in a meeting on Sunday with Isabela Rep. Edwin Uy, Isabela State University president Romeo Quilang, Department of Land Reform representatives, representatives of credit firms and Isabela mayors.

He said the lakatan variety will be planted to 20,000 hectares of banana plantation in Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Kalinga and Ifugao through the modern technology system to do away with the banana bunchy top disease virus.

Cagayan has yet to avail of the banana commercialization program while Apayao has been adopting the traditional banana farming which gives low production, Temanel said.

Next year, banana commercialization proponents have targeted 200,000 hectares of banana plantation to meet the growing market demand from traders, he said.

The produce will be marketed to traders exporting bananas abroad.

Uy initially shelled out P200,000 from his Priority Development Assistance Fund to some banana farmer-beneficiaries. He said he would release P1 million for technicians and other farmer-beneficiaries this year.

A portion of the fund will be spent for laboratory equipment and facilities to propagate and sustain the seedlings.

Uy said the banana commercialization program "looks very promising" for farmers who want to engage in alternative crops aside from traditional corn and rice crops.

He said a banana export trader wants 20 tons of bananas to support its export requirements from banana producers here.

He said export traders have been tapping producers in Cagayan Valley because the producers in Davao have decreased their banana production to plant durian.

Citing a government research of the Philippine Center for Agricultural Research and Development, Uy said the net profit would reach P400,000 during the first banana farm harvest in a hectare farm only.

"We have vast lands untapped in Isabela and these will be used for the banana plantation. Rice and corn farm crops are not enough for farmers to sustain their livelihood," he said.

However, Temanel said modest estimates showed that banana farmers would still generate a net income of at least P261,399 during the first harvest even with minimal supervision.

Temanel, a banana production trainor, said the market of lakatan variety has been booming since 1993 in Quirino and this is expected to be replicated in other provinces.

Quirino has been a suitable area for growing banana due to its climatic condition, he said.

Cagayan Valley is the country's fifth banana producer, next to Southern Tagalog, Southern Mindanao, Western Visayas and Caraga regions.

Temanel said the business prospects in the region would propel it as one of top three banana producers in the next years.

"Most bananas produced in the region are the Saba and Cardaba varieties. There is little awareness among local residents about the lucrative business of growing lakatan banana," he said.

He added: "Big growers and exporters are targeting China as a major market for lakatan in the near future." *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

TASTY bananas, some of which came from farmers using the new technology against banana bunchy top disease, are sold at the Ilagan public market in Ilagan, Isabela.

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BUSINESS Monday

Use color to get that job

AS AN advertising whiz kid, Carlos wears a pink shirt at P379.75, necktie at P149.75, belt at P299.75, shoes at P549.75, slacks at P249.75. Total at P1,628.75.

Color speaks confidence and strength. To be able to wear an assertive color means you're intelligent. Or just a smarter shopper in clothing," says Tonichi Nocom at his second floor boutique at SM Makati.

Tasked with creating a male outfit—from shirt, slacks, necktie, belt and shoes on a P2,000 budget—we have come up with four different looks for the position you want. All coordinated to not only make you look like the right candidate but to close that deal.

For what to wear for your job interview, new graduates like my nephew, Carlos, who models this spread, all depends on the position you are applying for. If you're headed for the banking sector, you will have to wear somber, albeit polished separates.

But for more creative jobs such as advertising or a trading company, you can wear bright colored shirts with khaki slacks and a bold necktie to cinch that entry-level position.

"Men shop with an eye for good sewing and soft comfortable shirting. Our whole campaign for men's wear is in striking colors. Gone are the days when mom or the girlfriend would help choose the outfit. Men make daring decisions when shopping now, and they go alone. In fact, if it's a perfect fit, they can buy three colors in the same style. Men want to be noticed now. They know how to stand out," says Tonichi.

Celebrate the sensation of confident, living color. Note that all these will empower the job applicant and will give him that edge for the interview.

TRADING company position, a citrus green shirt at P379.75. Khaki flat front slacks at P249.75. Shoes at P549.75. Belt at P299.75 and necktie at P249.75. Total P1,728.75.

FOR A field job, maybe selling real estate, a twill bomber jacket at P1,299, Orange tee at P799.

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PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA
MENSWEAR BY ANTHONY NOCOM. AVAILABLE AT ALL SM STORES
HAIR AND GROOMING BY HAIR UK BY GEOFF SIMPSON
MODELLED BY CARLOS LEVISTE

CARLOS Leviste as a bank teller. Periwinkle blue cotton shirt at P379.75, necktie at P149.75, belt P299.75, slacks at P249.75, shoes at P549.75. Total at P1,628.75

Productivity: HR or systems issue?

PRODUCTIVITY improvement —can it really be achieved through human resources development training, or is it a subject better left to efficiency experts and systems engineers?

According to Don Payne, director of human resources development at Mattel Inc., companies can achieve substantial results in productivity improvement.

Payne used the LIFO® Training model to design a specific program which led to measurable results in productivity improvement.

In this case, the LIFO® Training model was used in a plastics manufacturing company. The firm was experiencing rapid sales growth, and management operated in an informal, personal, hands-on-manner.

Systematic procedures and documentation were unpopular in this environment.

Plastic production and warehousing were retained at the main plant, while packaging and distribution were now at the new facility.

Lacking systems management soon realized the need to intervene and identify solutions to their problems. The company president asked for help from Payne (a licensed LIFO® trainer) to identify improvement opportunities and strategies.

Payne used a productivity checklist to help isolate critical problems and help identify behaviors necessary for success between the two plants.

A structured training program was designed and presented to key members of the management group.

Relying on the LIFO® Training model to diagnose problems and identify possible solutions, the workshop encouraged individuals to apply specific strategies and action plans where productivity improvement was desirable.

All goals and action plans were based upon those behaviors which would account for the greatest success in specific situations.

By identifying their style preferences, the team was able to spot low-strength areas and built them up."

Results

At the end of the months, the following results were reported.

1. Manufacturing efficiency (man hours vs. scheduled product off the end of the production line) increased from 65 percent of standard to 95 percent of standard.

2. Absenteeism decreased from 30 people out of 150 being absent on a daily basis, to 5 out of 150 being absent.

3. Material handlers were reduced from 28 to 13, yet were able to handle the same amount of work as 28; and had already devised a plan where they could handle twice as much work during peak period without adding staff.

4. Shipping (both distribution and interplant transfer) had reduced staff by 10 percent and had consolidated interplant shipments to conserve labor and fuel. Graphs showing monthly improvements in efficiency were posted.

5. A formal planning system had been designed for production planning—now packaging knew what it would be packing out for the next six months rather than day to day. The greatest assistance in this change came from top management who (a) originally requested the help, (b) were involved in identifying the improvement goals and (c) supported and reinforced the required style changes.

Call 893-3715 for more information.

Are you a 'high-life seeker'?

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

OFFHAND, it sounds like this person has nuances of a high-rolling lifestyle, or may even be a "high-tech" gadget junkie or an incessant call-me-Indiana-Jones traveler that has not seen enough of the world in a lifetime.

And for Samsung Electronics, one of the world's largest manufacturer of home appliances and electronic products, it may just be all of the above.

Samsung president and chief executive officer for Southeast Asia San Jin-park said in an interview that based on the company's market surveys, the so-called "high life seeker" is the next growth target.

"We have studied lifestyle and income brackets. And we are now focused on the people who are interested in high-tech gadgets, mobile people, those who like to travel and those surfing on the Internet, those that want new technology and have the income to get it," Park said.

And for a country like the Philippines that has over 80 million people, with a majority barely earning the minimum wage, can Samsung cut it and find a huge pool of high life seekers?

"Anywhere in the world, about 10 percent can enjoy any type of luxury and they are traveling a lot and have access to information, those are our primary targets, we also have about medium range of products for about 30 or 40 percent of the population," Park said.

Park said the Philippines is considered a fast growing market, with sales expected to expand to $900 million this year from the export of Samsung products to other countries as well as sales from the local market as compared with $550 million last year.

Out of the total sales target this year, the local market is expected to pitch in roughly $350 million while the balance will come from exports.

Backed with optimism for its new target market, Samsung is also embarking on its new slogan, "Imagine."

The essence of "Imagine" is being able to make dreams come true.

"If you imagine, Samsung can bring it to you," Park said.

Park also said this slogan is meant to improve brand awareness and create Samsung as the "top of mind" brand for all electronics and appliances.

"When it comes to any product, Samsung should have good recall. And then, emotional bonding with the Samsung brand and the customer is very important," he said.

SANG JIN-park, president and CEO for Samsung Asia; and Spenser Shim, president and CEO for Sepco

To promote its products, Samsung is conducting a roadshow in Indonesia, after Thailand and the Philippines recently.

In early August, Samsung launched its largest audio visual roadshow in the country. Leveraging on its brand campaign, "Imagine," Samsung called on consumers to live its latest range of audio-visual products whether at work or play.

Samsung has been ranked as one of the world's fastest growing brands, with a total brand value of $14.95 billion, according to brand consultant Interbrand.

Among the leading-edge picture technologies on display at the Samsung Imagine AV roadshow were its range of flat-panel televisions: plasma displays, LCD (liquid crystal display) TVs, projection TVs and DLP (digital light projection) TVs. The range boasts the industry highest 10,000:1 contrast ratio and 549 billion colors , more than seven times the industry standard.

Plasma TV uses a matrix of tiny gas plasma cells charged by precise electrical voltages to create a picture. Or simply put, a plasma panel is a collection of a thousand small fluorescent lamps fired on and off at a rapid rate. Plasma technology achieves high contrast ratios. This means it produces black as black rather than dark grey. It is therefore suitable for scenes that combine dark and light images at the same time such as in games and movies. A plasma 40-inch TV costs around $4,000.

In LCD TVs on the other hand, pixels are produced by tiny cells containing thin layers of liquid crystals. These rod-shaped liquid crystal molecules bend light in response to electric current to produce images. Think of window blinds—changing the angle of the slats causes them to let in more or less light.

The advantage of an LCD TV is that it is flat, saving on space. It can be hung on walls and is suitable for places where space is scarce. It consumes less power than the plasma TV while having a longer life span.

Also under the spotlight is Samsung's SlimFit TVs, the company's new category of cathode ray tube (CRT) TVs.

SlimFit TVs reduce the depth of standard CRT TV by up to 33 percent. They also incorporate nano pigment technology, which is designed to bring better contrast and a greater range of colors.

Apart from its flat-panel televisions, Samsung is showcasing two new features of its Hypervision DVD players. This player produces a high quality video picture using the latest high definition multimedia interface technology which provides an interface between any audio or video source to a DVD player.

Now with these latest innovations in appliances, the ball is now in that so-called "high-life seeker's" court.

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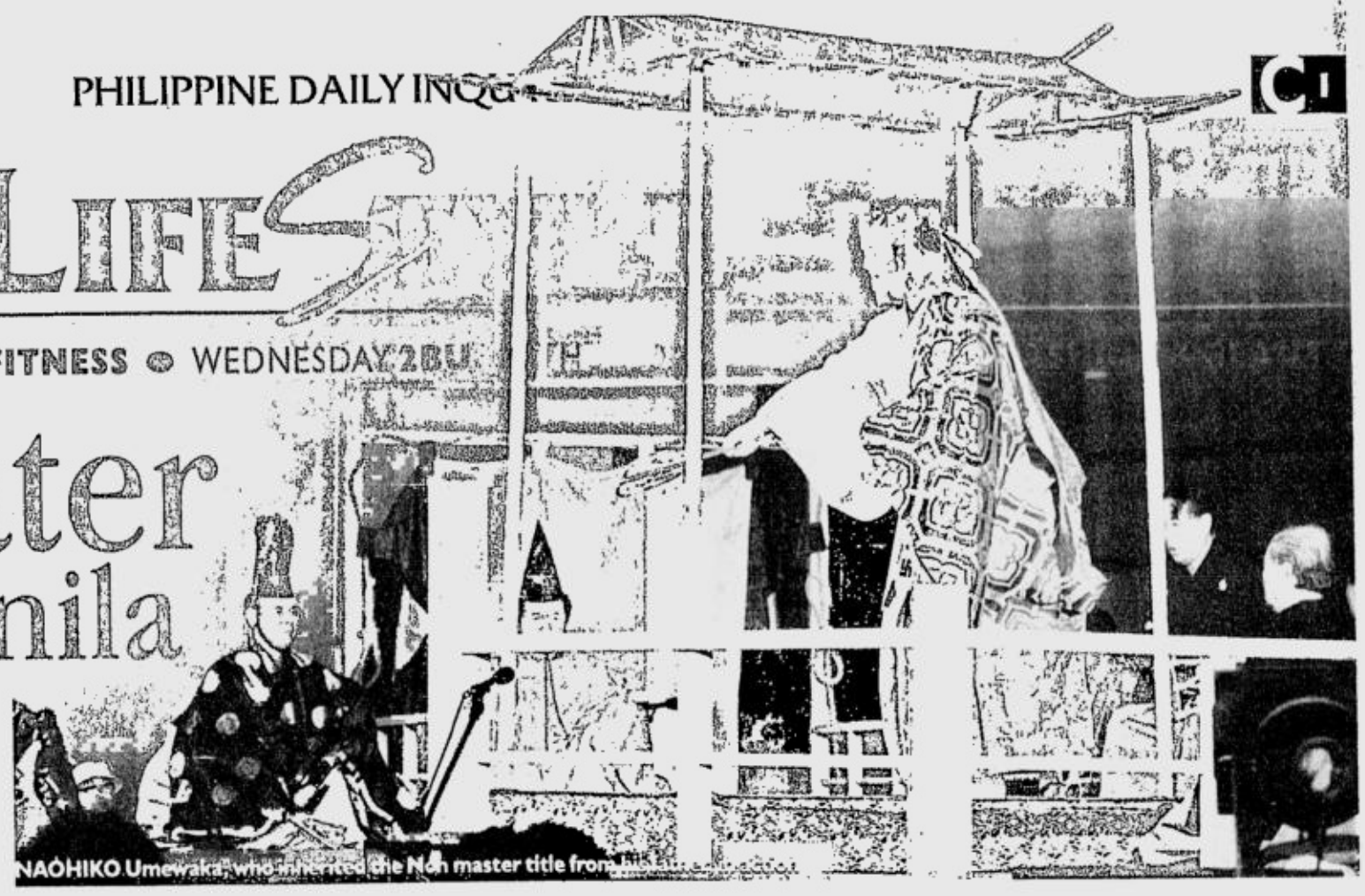
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Subsection Editor **Lito B. Zulueta**

LIFE

Noh theater comes to Manila

Naohiko Umewaka is in Manila to teach the intricacies of the ancient Noh dramatic tradition of Japan



NAOHIKO Umewaka, who inherited the Noh master title from his fat...

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

ONE fine day in feudal Japan, at the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries, a theater personage named Zeami (1363-1444) sat down and began to write and document all the theories of the traditional Noh theater, which up to then was an oral tradition.

The epic work grew into some 23 volumes, and was eventually translated into 30-40 languages.

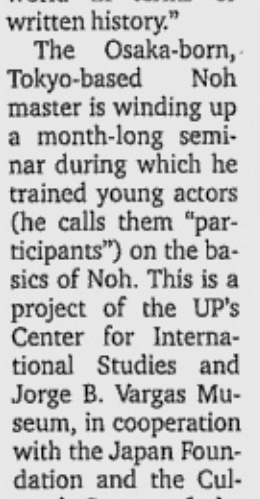
"This was the beginning of the written history of Noh theater," notes Dr. Naohiko Umewaka, a Noh master. "From that time on the shoguns (warlords) became very fond of Noh. They all supported Noh theater, and were even practitioners of the art."

The written theories became part of an unbroken line handed down from family to family, from generation to generation. Thus, says Umewaka, "Noh is one of the oldest living theaters in the world in terms of written history."

The Osaka-born, Tokyo-based Noh master is winding up a month-long seminar during which he trained young actors (he calls them "participants") on the basics of Noh. This is a project of the UP's Center for International Studies and Jorge B. Vargas Museum, in cooperation with the Japan Foundation and the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

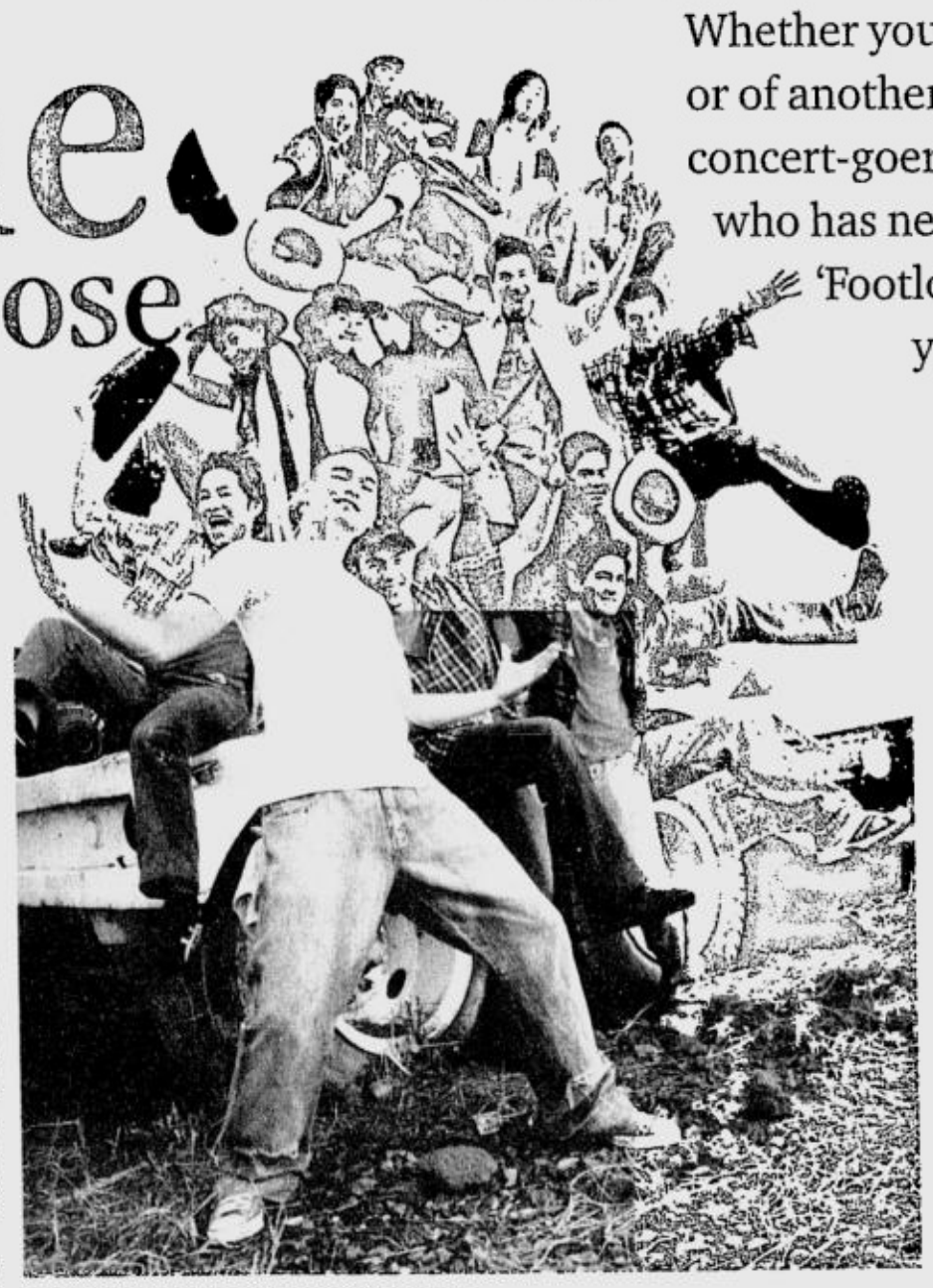
The result of the training sessions will be "Unravel Noh," a recital performance written and directed by Umewaka. It will

NOH/ C2



SENSEI Naohiko Umewaka sans Noh makeup

Time to cut loose



POP singer Jay-R leads a powerhouse cast.

By Audie Gemora
Contributor

ANYONE who hears the theme song of the 1984 hit movie, "Footloose," will find it hard not to get up and dance. There's something about the music that just grabs you and sends electricity all over your body. No wonder when the chance to produce the musical version of that film came along, I couldn't resist it, either. Yes, there is a Broadway musical version of "Footloose," and it's going to have a month-long run at the Meralco Theater this coming September.

OF STAGE

But that's getting ahead of the story. For those who've never seen the movie, "Footloose" is about a city kid who moves to a small town in the midwest and discovers that dancing is forbidden. He challenges the local minister who instituted the law, rallying the young people including the preacher's daughter behind him. In the end, the townsfolk learn about love, faith, trust and freedom.

I got a hold of and fell in love with the original cast recording of "Footloose" the musical about four years ago when I visited New York. I have been dreaming about staging it in Manila since. It's just that the past few years I was busy putting together shows for Trumpets, which doesn't really touch Broadway materials. So I knew that if I was ever going to mount "Footloose," it would have to be outside the theater company I've been serving for the longest time. The question was—how was this going to come about?

Youth theater

Two years ago, one of Trumpets' resident directors, Chari Arespacochaga, staged "Footloose" for her Trumpets Summer Playshop class recital, and again directed a campus production of it at Ateneo Blue Rep that school year. I caught both stagings and was delighted to see so many talented young performers—good enough to headline a professional theater production. I remember addressing the Playshop class and declaring that the time was ripe for "youth theater."

Two years later, Stages, an affiliate company of Trumpets, which has thus far only done corporate events and talent management, started going into producing shows. Now, following the Disney/Buena Vista set up, Trumpets would continue to produce Christian-themed, children and family-oriented productions, while Stages would do concerts and Broadway/West End shows. With a major entertainment company behind me, "Footloose" the musical was finally ready to leap onstage!

First step was putting together a formidable artistic team. Chari, who knows the show like the back of her hand—or should I say foot—is directing the Stages production, this time with a full complement of theater professionals. Noted scenographer Mio Infante has come up with a simple yet innovative set, which when lit by lighting designer Dong Calinacion should capture the essence of middle America.

Stylist Kalila Aguilos is assembling costumes that mix '80s retro with today's look. Choreographers James Laforteza and Rene Sagaran of the Manoeuvres face the challenge of fusing theater jazz with hip hop, while first-time musical director IJ Garcia, who was born the year the "Footloose!" soundtrack was released, breathes new life to timeless hit songs like "Let's Hear It For The Boy," "Holding Out for A Hero," "Almost Paradise," "I'm Free!" and the ever danceable "Footloose."

Triple threat

Next move was finding the cast. Hollywood star Kevin Bacon, who played Ren McCormack in the movie, actually had a dance double. Live theater performance offers no such trick, so we needed to find a guy who could really act, sing and dance. We found not one but two "triple threat" performers—R&B Prince Jay-R and Jonard Yanzon of the band 17:28.

Jay-R, who moved to Manila from LA, and had to "fit in" before making his mark in the local show-biz scene, is perfect for the role. His urban airs and very distinct R&B style gives an edge to the role and songs. Jonard, on the other hand, started in the theater as a child actor, went mainstream by winning the Metro Pop Young Singers competition, joined a boy band in his teens, and now returns to his first love. Those of us in the theater couldn't be happier because he is an incredible talent.

Playing the love interest of the boys is MYX VJ Iya Villania, who so impressed the audition panel that she easily clinched the role of the rebellious pastor's daughter Ariel, essayed in the film by Laurie Singer.

"Footloose" auditions attracted so many fresh talents. It was a task whittling down hundreds of aspirants to a powerhouse cast of 30. Among those who made the cut are Gian Magdangal of 17:28, TV actresses Nikki Valdez and Maoui David, MTV VJ Hunt finalist Marvin Luna, Star Dance finalist Daniel Cabrera, "Star In A Million" finalist Veejay Aragon and Fil-Am Hansen Nichols.

We also have a cool blend of Kundirana kids—Johann de la Fuente and Felix Rivera—and Ateneo Blue Rep kids—Caissa Borromeo, Nica Reynoso, Kyla Rivera, Pom Docena, Andre Pamintuan, as well as products of Trumpets Playshop JC Gotingca, Dara David and Kenjie Villacorte.

Strong support

Lending the young cast strong support are stalwarts Agot Isidro, Carla Martinez and myself. Yes we've all agreed to play parents to these teenagers! But the trade-off is we get to sing emotionally charged songs written specifically for the musical. Rounding up the cast are ex-"Miss Saigoners" Robbie Guevara and Raul Montessa, Trumpets stalwarts Jennie Nuyda, John Muhall, Mitch Kahn, Ana Agabin and Raymund Concepcion.

If the energy, fun and inspired performances over at rehearsals are an indicator, audiences of all ages are in for a real treat. Now, back to the music that nobody can seem to resist dancing to and the show that just had to be staged: Whether you are a child of the '80s or of another decade, a concert-goer, theater-goer or one who has never gone to a musical, "Footloose" guarantees you a great time. So give in to the theme song's chant: "Everybody cut loose... Everybody Footloose!"

"Footloose" the musical runs Sept. 2, 3, 9, 10, 16,17, 23, 24 at 8 p.m. and on Sept. 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25 at 3 p.m. at the Meralco Theater. For tickets, call Ticketworld at 8919999/6354478/6317252, or visit www.ticketworld.com.ph.

PPO opens concert season Sept. 9

CONDUCTOR Eugene Castillo

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

WORKS that are familiar and unfamiliar, old and new, as well as a handful of new music will comprise the program of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra's (PPO) new concert season that begins Sept. 9.

With the theme "Magic of Music," the PPO will give a total of eight concerts until the end of the season on April 7. Each concert will reflect a subtheme that reflects a part of the main theme.

In a press launch recently at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel, Eugene Castillo, PPO music director and principal conductor, stressed the magic of music that could empower, stir reverence or irreverence, touch the hearts of listeners, and move them to all kinds of love.

The theme, the first time the PPO will have one, will serve as a framework of the concert season, facilitating understanding and unifying all featured programs in the series.

Premieres

New works included will be heard for the first time in Manila and in Asia but the series continues the Brahms cycle. Two more works of Brahms will be featured over the next two years.

Castillo outlined the tedious process he used as music director and principal conductor to prepare the lineup of programs. His primary goal was to come up with a varied selection.

To heighten the audience's listening pleasure and develop its appreciation for new works, Castillo holds an informal chat between listeners and the featured artist at the Little Theater for half an hour before curtain time.

Castillo acknowledged the help of Dennis Marasigan, marketing director of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, in conceptualizing the theme of the season.

Marasigan reported that PPO's subscribers were increasing. CCP artistic director Fernando Josef, who gave the welcome remarks, stressed that keeping the artistic merit of the orchestra was a must. Marie Zelie S. Tan, a subscriber, said she found the new PPO brochure very interesting and user-friendly.

Romantic program

The first concert on Sept. 7, "Romantic Beginnings," features tenor William George as soloist in Leighton's Symphony No. 3, "Laudes Musicae," which will have its Philippine premiere. Completing the program are Alfredo Buenaventura's "Bathaluman," and Brahms Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op. 68.

"When Worlds Collide" follows on Oct. 7, with Ingrid Sala Santamaria as featured soloist in Macdowell's Piano Concerto No. 2 in D minor, Op. 23. The program which will feature the Philippine premiere of Takemitsu's Star Isle, will close with Hector Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique, Op. 14.

Two more works will be premiered in the third series,

"Remembering," on Nov. 11—Margaret Brouwer's Remembrances, and Michael Tilson Thomas' From the Diary of Anne Franck. Solita Monsod will be guest narrator. Beethoven's Symphony No. 1 in C Major caps the program.

The PPO performs at the Folk Arts Theater grounds on Dec. 9. "Christmas Romance" will feature Australian harpist Marshall McGuire, flutists Enrique Barcelo and guest conductor Mark Allen McCoy. The program includes Rimsky-Korsakov's Christmas Eve Suite; Castelnuovo Tedesco's Concertino for Harp and Chamber Orchestra, Op. 93; Mozart's Concerto for Flute and Harp, K. 99; and Custer's A Canadian Brass Christmas and other holiday favorites.

The New Year will be greeted with the Jan. 13 concert where the irreverent Three Screaming Popes by Anthony Turnage, and Miklos Rozsa'a Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, Op. 31, with Sara Davis Buechner as featured soloist, premiering. Ralph Vaughn Williams' Symphony No. 2, "A London Symphony," concludes the program anchored on the theme "From Big Ben to Hollywood."

All-Philippine show

February, National Arts Month, is devoted to an all-Philippine program, following the success of a similar programming this year. Maestro Oscar C. Yatco, conductor laureate, is featured conductor.

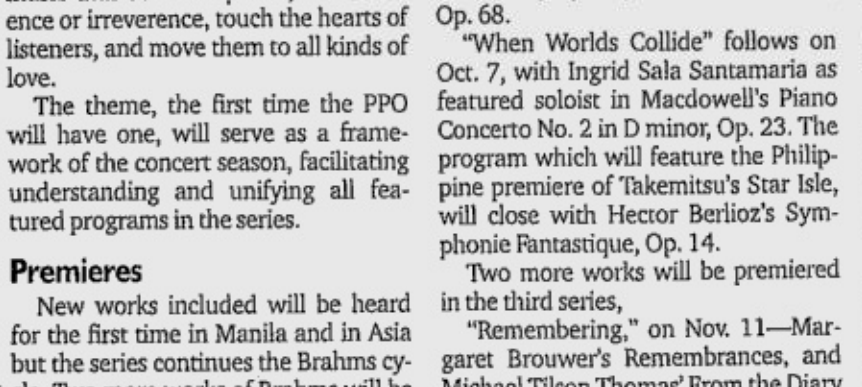
On Feb. 10, "Philippine Scenes" will see the world premiere of two Philippine works—Michael Dadap's Concerto for Guitar and Orchestra, and Castillo's Velocity. Lucresia R. Kasilag's Philippine Scenes and Tapales' Mindanao Orchids complete the program.

The "Uncommon Woman" will be the theme of the Women's Month concert on March 10 with guest soprano Alison Buchanan. The works of Joan Tower and Amy Beach, Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman and Symphony No. 2 in E minor "Gaelic" Op. 32, respectively, will be heard for the first time in the country.

Other works in the program are Saint-Saens' Bachanale from Samson et Dalila; Roberto Gehard's Sis cancons de l'infantament meravellos de Schahrazada (Asian premiere); and Strauss' "Ah, du wollest mich nicht" from Salome.

The April 7 concert, "Transfigured World", will have Ukranian artist Oxana Herasymenko as featured soloist in Yuriy Oliynyk's Concerto No. 3 for Bandura and Orchestra. Completing the program are Schoenberg's Verklarte Nacht (Transfigured Night) and Shostakovich Symphony No. 5 in D minor, Op. 47.

Except for "Christmas Romance," concerts will be held at the CCP Main Theater at 8 p.m. Call CCP box office, 8323704; Ticketworld at National Bookstore, and Tower Records, 8919999; or visit www.culturalcenter.gov.ph or www.yehey.com/ccp.



THE PHILIPPINE Philharmonic will perform eight concerts for the new season.

All-male 'The Taming of the Shrew'

WILLIAM Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew" goes onstage at Rep's Globe Theater at Onstage in Greenbelt 1 on Sept. 2-25.

Director Bart Guingona presents Shakespeare's romantic comedy as it was originally presented—with an all-male cast. To complete the turn-back in time, the actors will be performing on a stage turned into the old Globe Theater, made famous to Filipino audiences by the popular movie "Shakespeare in Love."

Baptista, a rich gentleman of Padua, wishes to marry off his two beautiful daughters, Bianca and Katherine. The sweet Bianca has many suitors but will not marry before Katherine, whose shrewish temper terrifies men and prevents them from approaching her.

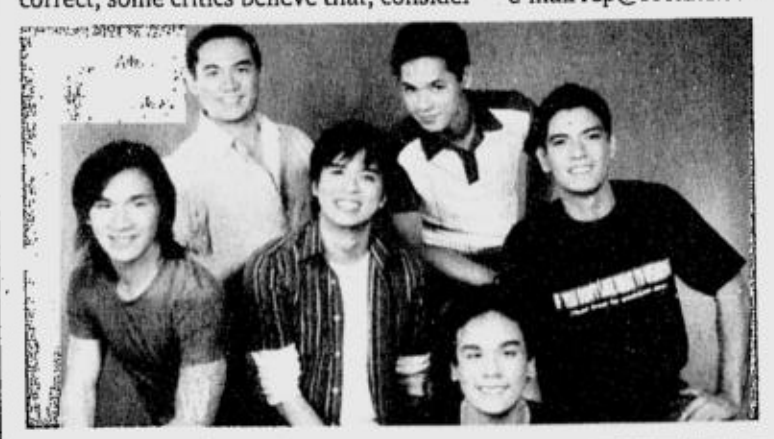
One of Bianca's suitors, Hortensio, persuades his wild and witty friend Petrucchio to woo Katherine so he may marry Bianca. Petrucchio does so and by fair means and foul, finally wins Katherine's hand.

Although usually seen as Shakespeare's commentary on the role of women which may at present be regarded as politically incorrect, some critics believe that, considering the political situation at that time, it may also be interpreted as an allegorical text espousing obedience to lawful authority.

Whatever it may be, it is certainly one of Shakespeare's funniest comedies. It was adapted into a popular Broadway musical, "Kiss Me Kate," which also became a popular movie.

The cast includes Joel Trinidad and PJ Rebullida alternating in the role of Katherine, Niccolo Manahan as Petrucchio, Topper Fabregas in the dual role of Bianca and Grumio, Bonggoy Manahan and Arnel Carrion play fathers Baptista and Vincentio, respectively, Jejie Esguerra as Tranio, Hans Eckstein as Bianca's love interest Lucentio, Oliver Usison and Dingdong Rosales as Bianca's spurned suitors Hortensio and Gremio, and Micah Muñoz and Jack Salud as the servants Biondello and Nathaniel.

"The Taming of The Shrew" will have special subscriber performances on Sept. 2 and 3 at 8 p.m. and Sept. 4 and 25 at 3:30 p.m. Tickets are available at Ayala Ticketron and Ticketworld outlets. For more information, call the Rep office at 8870710 or e-mail rep@broline.com.



PJ Rebullida as Katherine, Topper Fabregas as Bianca, Nic Manahan as Petrucchio, Hans Eckstein as Lucentio, Jack Salud as Nathaniel and Micah Muñoz as Biondello

Noh theater comes to Manila

From page C1

feature "Dance from Okina" and "Dance from Ataka," and "The Coffee Shop Within a Play."

Performances are on Aug. 30 (3 p.m. and 7 p.m., Aldaba Hall/University Theater, UP Diliman), and on Sept. 2 (3 p.m. and 8 p.m., CCP's Tanghalang Huseng Batute).

Sensei's mission

"My mission is to introduce these thoughts, these theories of Noh," says the Noh master. The philosophy of Noh, he adds, cannot be explained in minutes as "it will be like explaining the philosophy of Immanuel Kant in 10 minutes."

Noh is ritualistic theater, with the actors wearing masks. "With a mask I can be anything," points out Umewaka. "I can be a ghost, an evil person, a Buddha, an old man, a woman." The musical instruments are a flute and three drums of varying pitch.

"So I'm here to teach the basics, physical technique, how to play the musical instruments, exercise, discipline," says the Noh master. "And they must continue this next year, because next year is the 50th anniversary of Philippine-Japan diplomatic relations. And July 23 is Philippines-Japan Day."

Umewaka is still young, and a fellow fond of telling corny jokes. But he turns serious once he discusses his art.

So, what's the difference between Noh and Kabuki? "That's like comparing Chaucer and Shakespeare," he quips. "The Noh language is much older. Kabuki is not that old, and there are no women actors here."

One of the Noh numbers to be presented, Senzai Dance from Okina, is 900 years old and used to be performed in shrines. It is a formal dance ritual of Shintoism in which the two male characters purify themselves, drink sake, and purify the stage with the help of an assistant.

The conditions are strict. The actors should abstain from sex for a month before the ritual. Mercifully, that's only in Japan. Umewaka will perform it here, and he does not have to follow that rule.

TENOR Frankie Aseniero

Concert for Masbate Cathedral

THE SAN Antonio de Padua Society in Masbate is holding a fund-raising dinner concert at Manila Peninsula Hotel Sept. 8-7 p.m., to raise funds to pay the P5-million debt incurred in the restoration of Masbate Cathedral.

Featured artists are tenor Frankie Aseniero and soprano Deeda Barretto with Prof. Nita Quinto at the piano.

Spearheading the fundraising are Tony Medina, chair; Justice Leo Quisumbing, Ambassador Tony Villamor, Minda Torres, Fiscal Pedro Salanga; and Cory Quirino, who will emcee the show.

The repertoire includes "Ave Maria" to be sung by Aseniero; "Light of a Million Mornings," to be performed by Barretto; and "The Prayer," sung in a duet.

Call 0917-3894432.

SOPRANO Deeda Barretto

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Sacred Music Festival Highlights

Mendelssohn's Elijah
30 September, 1 October

Roman Carnival
10 & 11 September

Other Events

Curator's Tour of the Exhibition
26 August

Italia Frescoes: A Modern Vision about Art & Faith Exhibition
7 & 8 September

Rome, from Renaissance to Baroque, by Sabrina Zuber, Art Consultant
9 September

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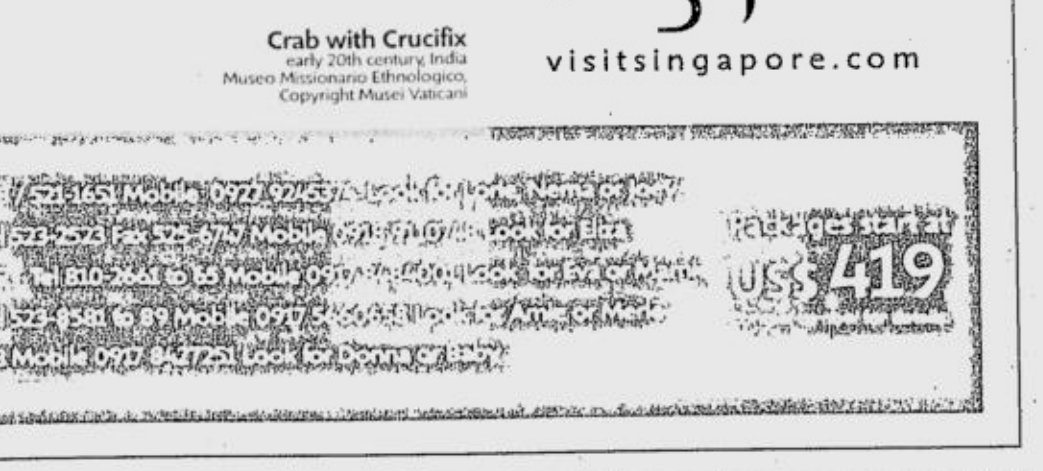

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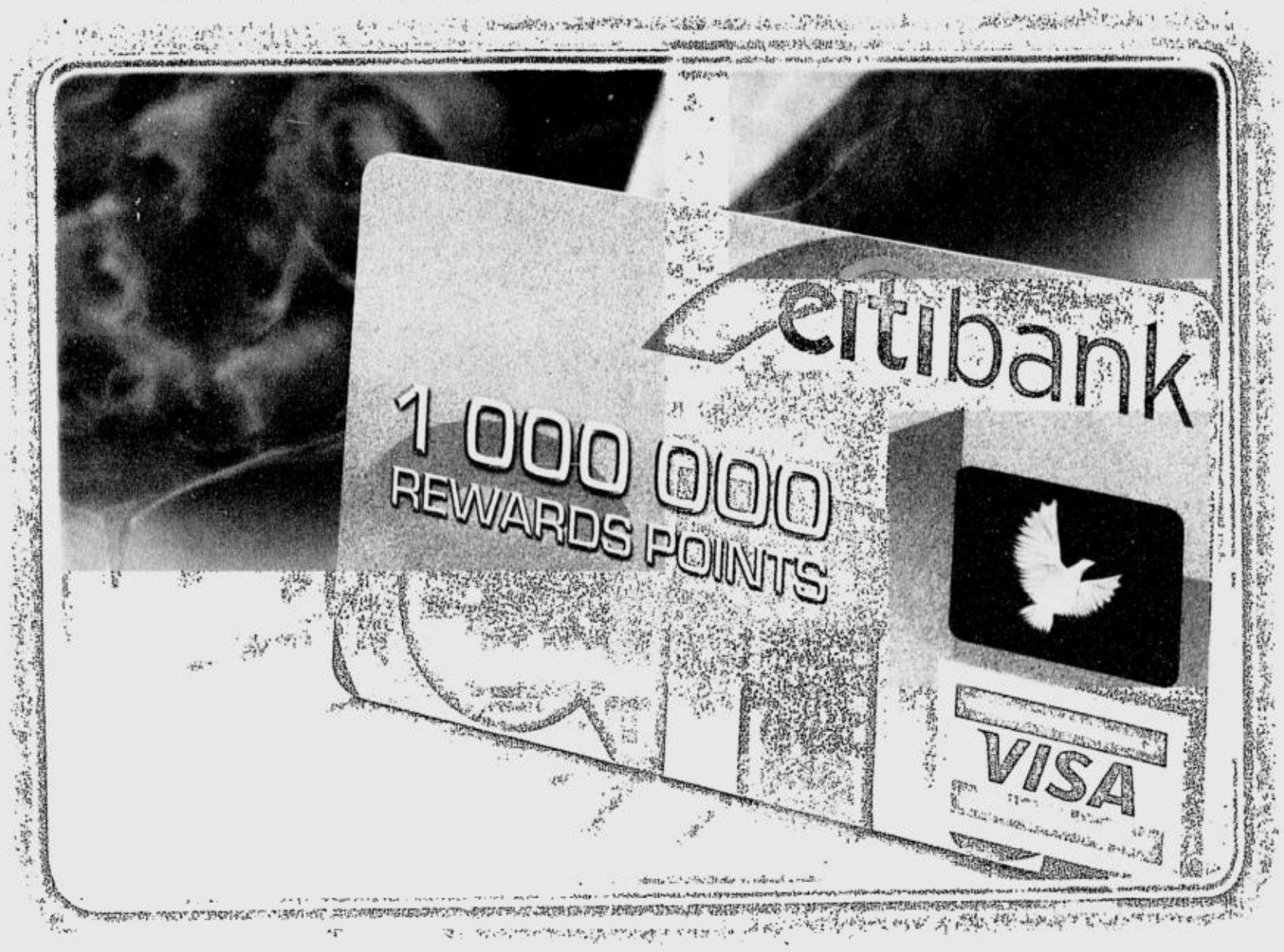

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Symphonic band festival on Sept. 5-10

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music, in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, City of Manila and the Philamlife Insurance Company, presents "Serenata 2005: A Symphonic Band Festival" Sept. 5-10.

Venues are at the Philamlife Auditorium Sept. 5-9 at 7 p.m., while the culminating concert will be staged at the Rajah Sulayman Park in Baywalk, Roxas Blvd., on Sept. 10.

Sixteen bands will be participating, including the host UST Wind Orchestra and the Chia-Yi Wind Orchestra from Taiwan. The event will showcase the leading symphonic bands, featuring a repertoire ranging from classics to Filipino, Broadway and pop arranged for large ensembles.

The schedule is as follows:

Sept. 5—Adamson University Band, Philippine Army Band, UP Symphonic Band

Sept. 6—Majestic Band of Muntinlupa, San Juan Nepomuceno Band of Malibay, Philippine Navy Band.

Sept. 7—Feati University Band, Manila City Band, Sta. Cecilia 89 of Cavite

Sept. 8—Banda 31 of Sta. Maria, Bulacan, UST Wind Orchestra, Chia-Yi Wind Orchestra of Taiwan

Sept. 9—International School Manila Symphonic Band, Banda 8 of Cardona, Rizal, Philippine Air Force Band, Philippine Youth Symphonic Band

The culminating concert on Sept. 10 concert will feature the Chia-Yi Wind Orchestra, UST Wind Orchestra, Philippine Army Band, Philippine Navy Band, Philippine Air Force Band, capped by a contingent of selected members from all participating bands in ensemble pieces, including Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture," "El Camino Real," "Sousa March" and "Mga Tugtuging Velarde." Conducting the whole ensemble is Prof. Herminigildo Ranera.

Tickets to the Philamlife performances are available at the UST Conservatory of Music office (tel. 7314022, 7313101 loc. 8246), or at the lobby before curtain time.

IRA Patricia Marasigan sings the National Anthem at the Magsaysay Awards.

Performers grace Magsaysay Awards

TOP ARTISTS are expected to make this year's Ramon Magsaysay Award ceremonies extra memorable.

The Philippine National Anthem will be rendered by stage performer and singer Ira Patricia Marasigan. Marasigan appeared in Tanghalang Ateneo's "Don Juan" and "Lam-Ang," and played the lead role in Ryan Cayabyab and Nestor U. Torre's musical "Ang Mapaghimalang Birhen ng Caysasay" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Floral architect Rachy Cuna will render again a horticulture design that will reflect the rich cultures of Asia.

The UP Cherubim and Seraphim, under Elena Rivera Mirano, will perform in the gala dinner.

The awards ceremonies are on Aug. 31, 4:30-6 p.m., at the CCP.

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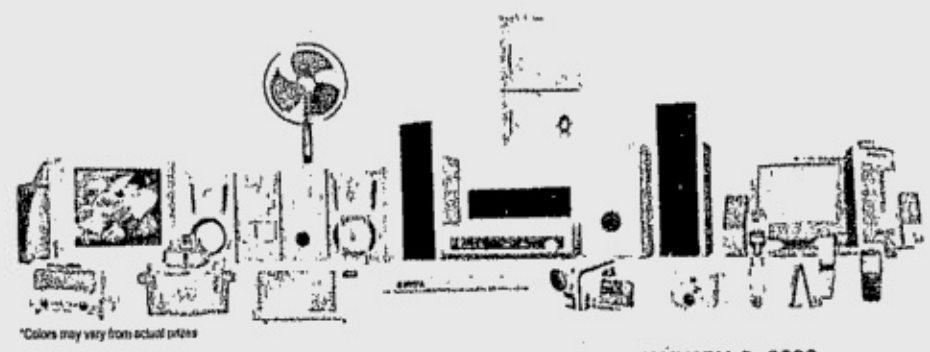

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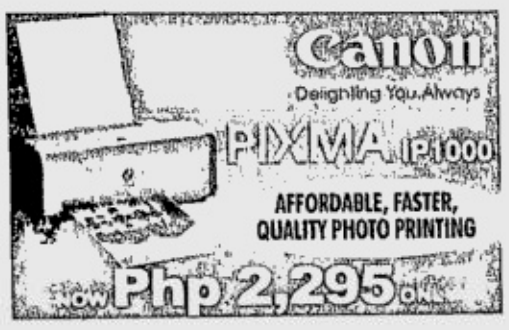

MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

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Text us your feedback: Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Take a shot at heritage

THE MANILA Post Office (topmost) after the Second World War. The building now (above) as photographed by Lisa Kahn

Binondo old-timers hit City Hall for changing Calle Nueva to Yuchengco Street

PHILIPPINE history and culture are reflected in heritage architecture—in dwellings, places of worship, and other buildings that record the development and aspirations of people.

The chaos in Philippine cities today shows how those aspirations have largely remained ideals, unrealized.

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

Two photo competitions on Philippine architectural heritage have been announced to find out whether there still remains anything distinctive in our cities.

The Filipinas Heritage Library, with the Fundación Santiago and Filipino Heritage Festival, announces a nationwide photo competition to showcase past and present Philippine architecture.

The contest is open to amateur photographers and film-based or digital camera users. A maximum of two entries are allowed per participant. Each entry shall consist of a contemporary photograph and a vintage photo (dated not later than the mid 1900s) from local libraries, institutions, or from Retrato, the photo archive of the Filipinas Heritage Library.

The Manila deadline is Sept. 15, the Visayas deadline, Oct. 14, and the Mindanao deadline, Dec. 15.

Visayas entries are to be submitted to the Negros Museum at Gatuslao Street, Bacolod (tel. 034-4345552, 034-4334764); and the Mindanao entries, to the Office of the President, Ateneo de Zamboanga University, La Purisima Street, Zamboanga City (tel. 062-9910871 local 1000).

Winners will win cash prizes. Their entries will be exhibited at the Filipinas Heritage Library in May 2006.

Photo contest on Manila

The Instituto Cervantes is holding the photo competition, "Manila, My Manila," whose theme is taken from the words of the celebrated writer and National Artist Nick Joaquin.

This competition embraces all photographs whose subject is Manila in all of its expressions taken from January 2005 to the present ("Manila" covers all cities and municipalities of Metro Manila).

Deadline is Sept. 19.

The first-prize winner will receive a Nikon D70 Digital SLR Camera Kit (worth P65,000) and P30,000. The audience choice prize winner will receive a Nikon F55 Kit SLR Nondigital Camera (worth P15,000) and P10,000.

The competition is open to all photogra-

TAKE/ D4

Christiana Jade M. de Silva
Unang Guro, Unang Kaibigan
UP Diliman, Fine Arts
Watercolor - 56.15 cm x 75.57 cm

Judeo R. Herrera
Malikhaing Umpisa, Makulay na Pagsasama
Tarlac State University, Advertising
Oil - 91.44 cm x 121.92 cm

Nomar B. Miano
Panagkot Kaupod si Lolo
University of San Carlos, Fine Arts
Watercolor - 56 cm x 75 cm

John Paul V. Antido
El Viaje de Familia
AMA Computer, BS Information Technology
Oil - 121.92 cm x 121.92 cm

Jeffrey E. Salon
Lumang Bago
Philippine Women's University, Advertising
Oil - 91.44 cm x 116.84 cm

Mark Andy R. Garcia
Punong-puno ng Pag-ibig
One Workshop, Inc., Advanced Painting Course
Watercolor - 76.20 cm x 101.60 cm

Pacifico R. Jose, Jr.
Nanay Ko Na, Tatay Ko Pa
Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation, Advanced Photography

Charles Nikolas J. Buenconsejo
Father's Son
UP Cebu, Fine Arts

Dorothy May Tabaque
Paggalang
Rizal Technological University, BS Industrial Psychology

Romulo G. Oñate II
Saling Kaalaman
Far Eastern University, Fine Arts

Mark Lester S. Cayabyab
Crayon Forum
PUP Manila, Journalism

Charles Nikolas J. Buenconsejo
Children of the Fields
UP Cebu, Fine Arts

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"FRUIT Vendors"

"FLOWER Vendors"

Pakil artist comes into his own

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

NOTHING better extols the fulfillment of the great Filipino dream than the harvest scene.

From the grand maestro of genre scenes, Fernando Amorsolo, and the supreme neorealist, Carlos "Botong" Francisco, to today's generation of artists, the images of plenty have become de rigueur, their appeal not diminished by the worsening economic crunch.

A worthy heir to the proud tradition of the harvest icon as fitting emblem of the good life is a homegrown artist from Pakil, Laguna, Bernard Vista.

Born in 1968, Vista took up Fine Arts at the University of Santo Tomas, earning a slot as varsity scholar as a member of the university swimming team. He swam the 1,500-m freestyle and broke records in the process.

He was also chosen as scholar by the Saturday Group, handpicked by no less than National Artist Cesar Legaspi.

At UST, he joined a number of art competitions, winning third place in the contest to mark the 400th year of Dominicans in the Philippines in 1987, picking up another third prize in an on-the-spot painting contest on campus, and a major prize in the PBBY Illustrators' Prize.

"CELLO Player"

After graduating in 1989, he found work as an artist-designer for a trading company. Later, in 1994, he was hired as illustrator by a publishing company, rising to become art director until he quit for good. Having married, he opted to stay in Pakil to raise a family.

In the beginning, Vista was content parlaying the standard subjects expected of an emerging artist—genre scenes and portraits of rural folk—and his figurative style then was hardly distinctive.

But, true to form, his gentle, unassuming ways intact, Vista persevered, honing his craft and submitting his works to the prying eyes of his peers and senior artists. His wife and parents gave him their unqualified support.

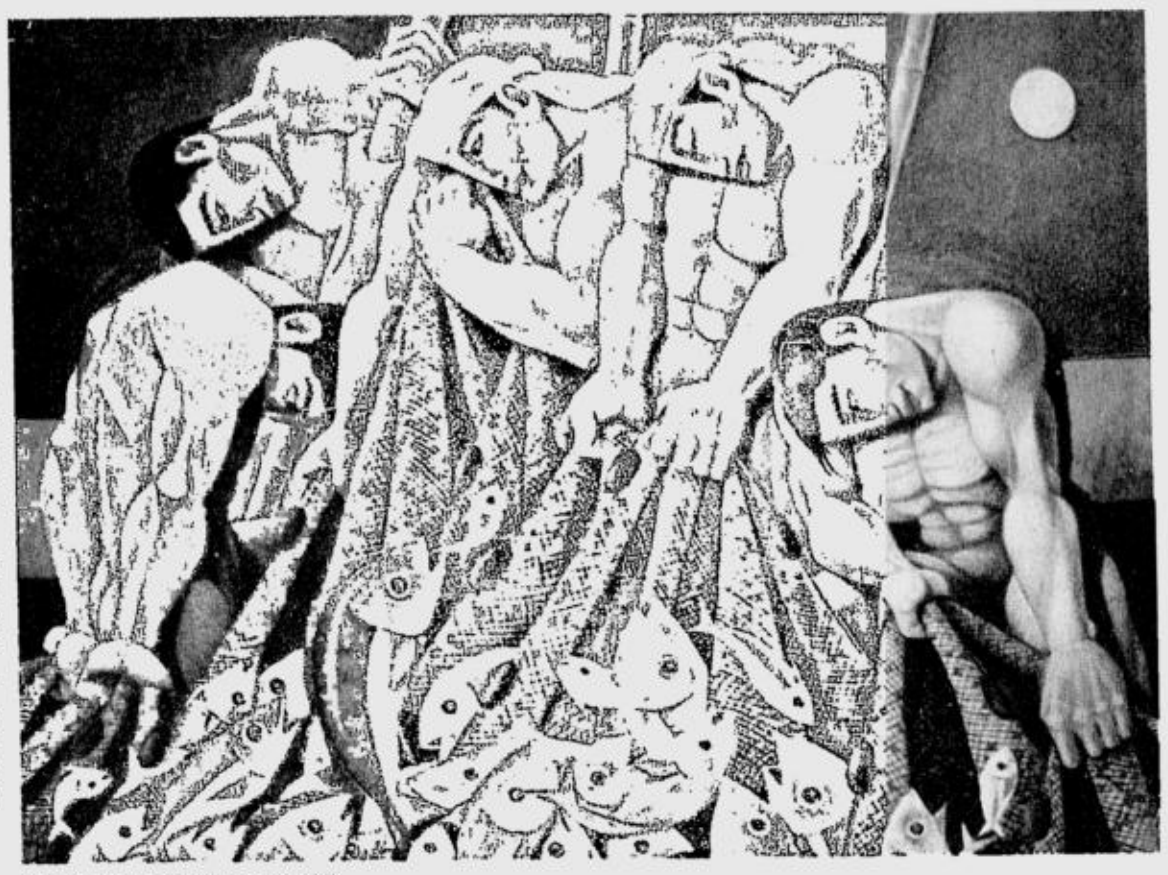
Thus, in his first solo exhibit "Biyaya" (Galerie Joaquin, until Sept. 7), the artist has finally come into his own. The scenes he executed are filled with an air of abundance and profusion. From golden fields to shining sea, farmers and fishermen are shown as kindred folk who go about their task with perseverance and efficiency.

Grain of realism

The grain of realism spills over the canvases: Here is an artist who has lived all his life in the same surroundings that have yielded the bounty and munificence of God's creation.

A trademark of Vista is the figure of the bent head, which has its origin in the works of Tam Austria, an influential artist from Tanay, Rizal. But Vista has appropriated the image to suit his iconic style of delineating characters hard at work, the collective spirit of industry binding them all.

Vista's male figures have squat and compact bodies, an influence borne by his infatuation with National Artist Ang Kiukok (another UST artist like Austria and Vista), their outsized hands and feet limned in steely strength. One also notices the striking resemblance between the artist and the faces on the canvases.



"BAYANIHAN (Fishermen)"

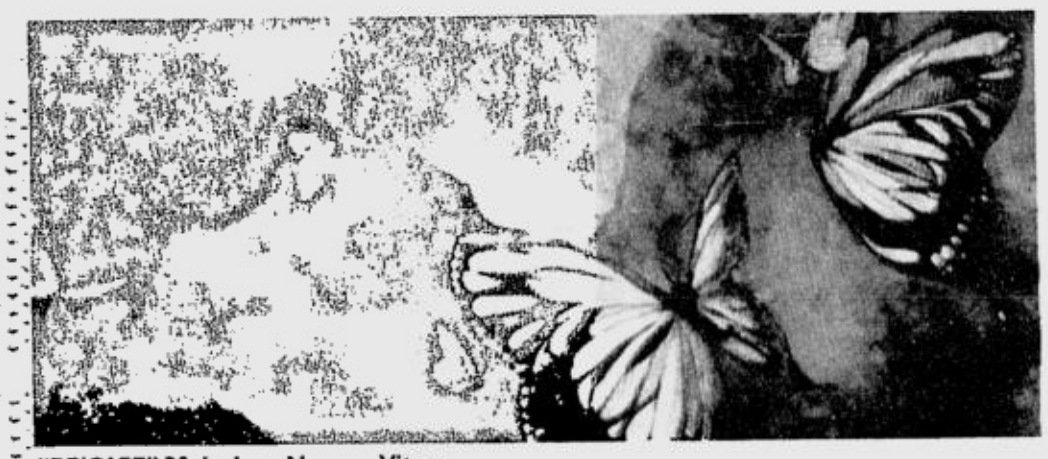
Another discernible quality is the overtly dramatic presentation, approximating a living and breathing tableau unfolding before our eyes.

Indeed, in one large painting, Vista has painted the seminal story of the good harvest, a mural that shows the entire cast playing their assigned parts, from the family of farmers in the center of the painting, the mother cradling her baby, to the fisherman on the right, the farmer on the left, the vendor further down the canvas, and the image of another woman gently pouring water from an earthen jar.

The show's pièce de résistance is the quartet of images in the "Four Vendors" series, showing vendors plying their assorted wares of fruits, vegetables and flowers. The three paintings with seemingly similar set of characters could have been done perfunctorily, but Vista has infused into each his idiosyncratic and lifelike brushwork.

The cycle of life and death, of work and play, of laughter and sorrow, is the collective drama of the Filipino psyche. It is to Vista's credit that he has chosen to work in the grand tradition of rustic realism but with a uniquely innovative eye.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com.



"REJOICE" 33, by Inna Naanep-Vitasa

Albor at Avellana, Vitasa at 139

GUS Albor's "Un-naked I" explores the limits of the visual material. Located inside a small refrigerator at the center of Avellana Gallery, the works in mixed media are kept, albeit temporarily, from inquisitive, therefore, meaning-forming eyes. What will initially hint their amorphous content and fracture the attendant mystery are miniature versions of the works. Competing against a sweeping background of black, they beg for the viewer's attention and scientific curiosity. Helped by a microscope placed on top of the refrigerator, the viewer becomes an active participant in discovery. Upon opening the door that hides the works, he realizes the points where the "inside" and "outside" seamlessly meet in a unified field of exploding ideas. Avellana is at A-19, 2680 FB Harrison St., Pasay City. Call 8338357 and 8328365.

GUS Albor

INNA Naanep-Vitasa will hold "Rejoice," her latest works in acrylic on canvas, in Gallery 139 (Glorietta 4, Ayala Center), Sept. 9-21. The artist paints her trademark butterflies in celebratory colors. Call 7289724.

GALERIA de las Islas presents "Mga Kulay ng Buhay sa Nayon" Aug. 29-Sept. 17 at 3/F Silahis Center, 744 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila. The show features Crisanto Lodronios's recent oil-on-canvas paintings: the pastorale, fiesta, Mother and Child, and others rendered in a semi-cubistic style. Call 5272113.

THE ART Discovery and Learning Foundation, Inc. presents the first one-man show of Marcelo Quezon Sept. 3-17 at G/F Triumph Building, Quezon Avenue, QC.

THE AYALA Museum presents "Passionate Eyes: Federico Aguilar Alcuaz" until Sept. 4. The show features artworks by Alcuaz from the collections of Benjamin Gayubar and Eddie and Norma Chua.

ARMANDO'S Art Gallery features Armando Toleza's "Thoughts of a Wonderful World" until Sept. 9 at I Hope Art Café, Bugallon St. cor. Rama St., Calbayog City. The artworks are in mixed media: geometrical foam board cuts, papier maché, fine prints, acrylic on canvas. Call 2093828.

"PANKHA," an exhibition of 300 hand fans from the Indian subcontinent and collection of Indian artist Jatin Das, is a visual feast on view until Oct. 2 at the National Museum, T. Valencia Circle, Manila. The fans are made of feathers, bamboo, grass, roots, palm leaves, braided yarn, embroidered and beaded fabrics. Call 5270278/ 5243005.

THE NATIONAL Commission for Culture and the Arts is holding an exhibit of about 200 photographs of the most captivating spots in the Philippines and China in connection with the 30th year of Chinese-Philippine diplomatic relations. The NCCA is in Intramuros.

AYALA Museum showcases an exhibition of rare 18th-19th-century costumes and accessories utilizing *nipis*, a gossamer handwoven fabric made from the fibers of abaca, piña and jusi. The costumes are on loan from the private collection of Rina Ortiz. Call 7577117 to 21.

POSITIVISM exponent and painter E.R. Tagle's new works pay tribute to the human figure. His nude linear series is on permanent display in Nude Room, 1429 Pablo Ocampo St., Brgy. San Antonio, Makati. Call 8112432.

AYALA Museum will hold a Docent Council, a training program for conducting tours of the museum's permanent and special exhibitions. Deadline for submission of completed application form is on Sept. 2. Call 7577117 to 21 loc. 14.

ART INFORMAL (277 Connecticut St., Greenhills East, Mandaluyong) offers a series of eight-session workshops on watercolor painting, drawing and pastel for children and adults, starting Sept. 3, 9 a.m.-12 noon. A sculpture workshop is set on Sept. 10-Oct. 15, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 7258518.

VISUAL ARTS

The hidden colors of light

By Constantino C. Tejero

"REMEMBER that a picture, before being a horse, a nude, or some kind of anecdote, is essentially a flat surface covered with colors." So said Maurice Denis, a member of a small group of French artists called Nabis.

(Made in 1890 when Denis was only 20, that statement is often considered "the key to contemporary painting." This way of looking at art, says an art historian, eventually led to abstraction.)

It was Gauguin's method of painting in pure color that inspired this group to produce "broad surfaces of flat colors or patterns."

We're not sure if Raul Roco Jr. has been inspired by Gauguin, or Bonnard and the Nabis, but such is the expressive use of color and rhythm that we see in his work. As well as the simplified form and vibrant colorism of Matisse, Derain and the Fauvists.

This is one young artist who truly glories in the seven colors of the rainbow, as could be seen in his second solo exhibit "Coffee & Wine," 21 pieces in charcoal, colored pen or oil on paper, recently in Gallery Nine at the Artwalk, L/4, Bldg. A, SM Megamall.

These are still lifes of wine glasses and coffee mugs, cups and saucers, flowers and ribbons, on tabletop or against the wall, often cubed or fragmented into a checkerboard pattern of vivid colors, primary, secondary, complementary, or monochromatic (pink, ochre, gray), flatly yet vigorously applied.

There's some roughness in the composition but not without charm. Particularly interesting is Roco's prismatic use of color.

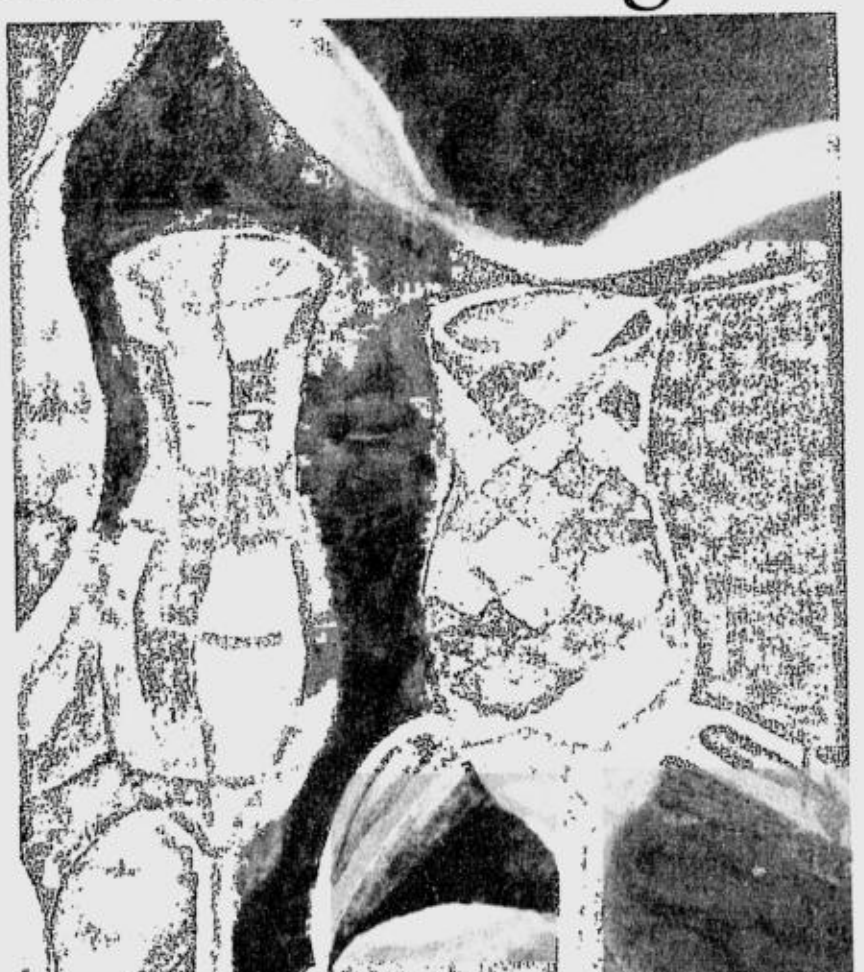
The spectrum is usually taken for granted by artists, as something that's there but doesn't have to be dwelt on. Yet it holds a childlike fascination on Roco, as if he just discovered the prism yesterday.

In fact, it has become a subject and theme of his numerous series of paintings from landscape to still life. He rhapsodizes it as "the hidden colors of light."

Demonstrating he can extend his interest and range, Roco takes a respite from the lurid prism and produces monochromatic pieces. In which case, the still life is no longer a study in chromatics but in structure and perspective, which he says he has learned by himself.

Roco is a self-taught artist. He says he chiefly learned art history and color theory from the Internet.

He took up Comparative Literature (European) in the University of the Philippines, and was working as a corporate man for three years before he went full-time into art-making four years ago.



"LIQUOR for Two"

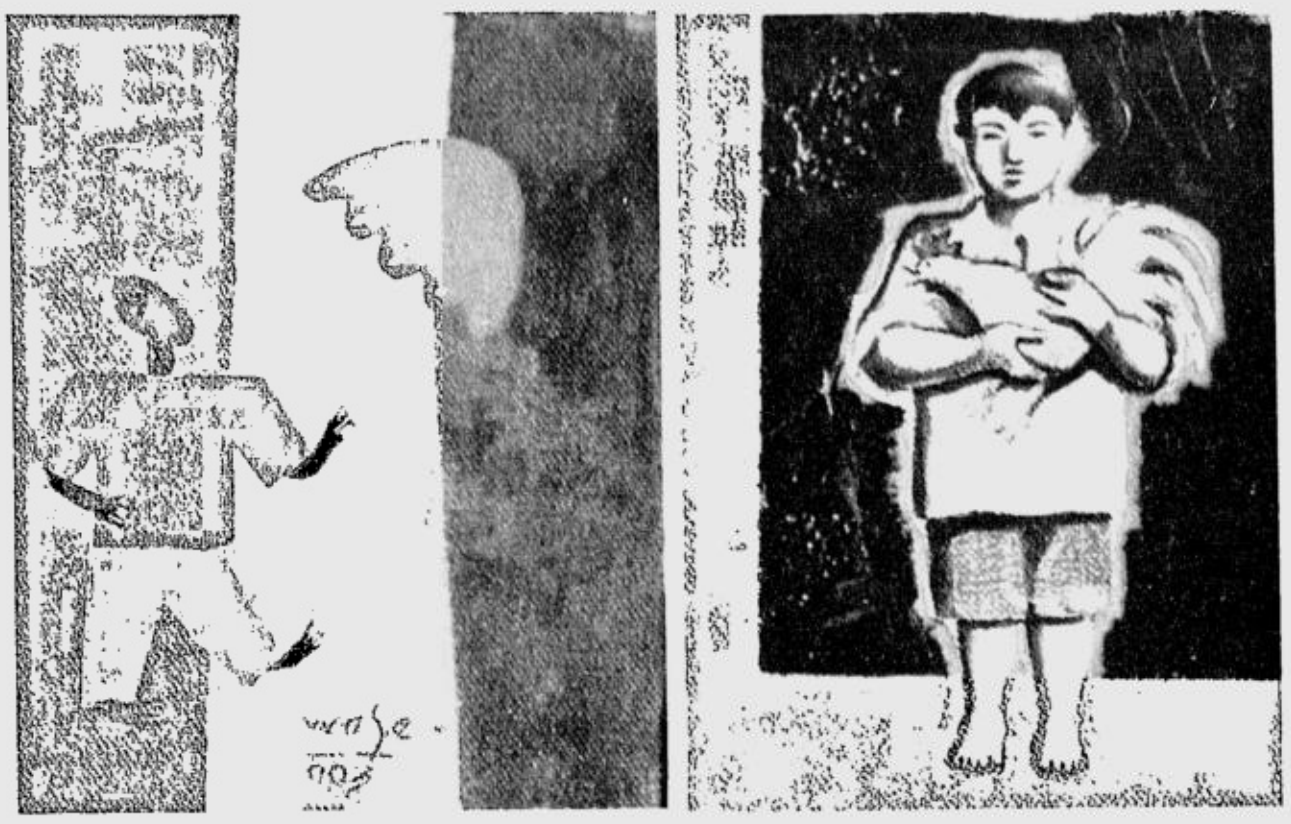
"CUP of Moonlight" I

"STRAWBERRY Ruby"

His art bears all the characteristics of Fauvism: strongly contrasting colors; wild yet unified patterns; dynamic brushwork; forms that have been simplified, flattened or distorted.

In fact, we see more in Roco's work. We also espy affinities with, improbably, Jim Dine and Stuart Davis, particularly the former's loose brushwork, glitzy images and iridescent patchwork colors, and the latter's jazzy fragmented forms.

But, ultimately, Roco is closer to the Fauvists in using color as a means of expression rather than description, resulting in art that evokes "a fantastical, joyous world of heightened emotion."



PAINTINGS by (left to right) Yveese Belen and Jef Samonte

Miniature artworks at Gallery Nine

ANTON Balao, Yveese Belen, Romeo Forbes, Tres Roman, Bin and Jef Samonte, Elios Santos, and Rex Tatlonghari present their miniature works in "Small World" at Gallery Nine, 4/L Artwalk of Megamall, Aug. 26-Sept. 5.

The eight artists give viewers a chance to own their pieces at less prohibitive prices.

From Balao's renditions of string instruments via intense pallete-knife strokes, to Belen's and Forbes' color-rich fusion of naïf and naïve, Roman's romance with horticulture and passion for the culinary, Bin Samonte's yin with his jesters and puppetry, to the yang of brother Jef's nostalgic rural children, to Santos' surreal spirituality and Tatlonghari's earthy contrasts, the exhibit is sure to cater to diverse preferences.

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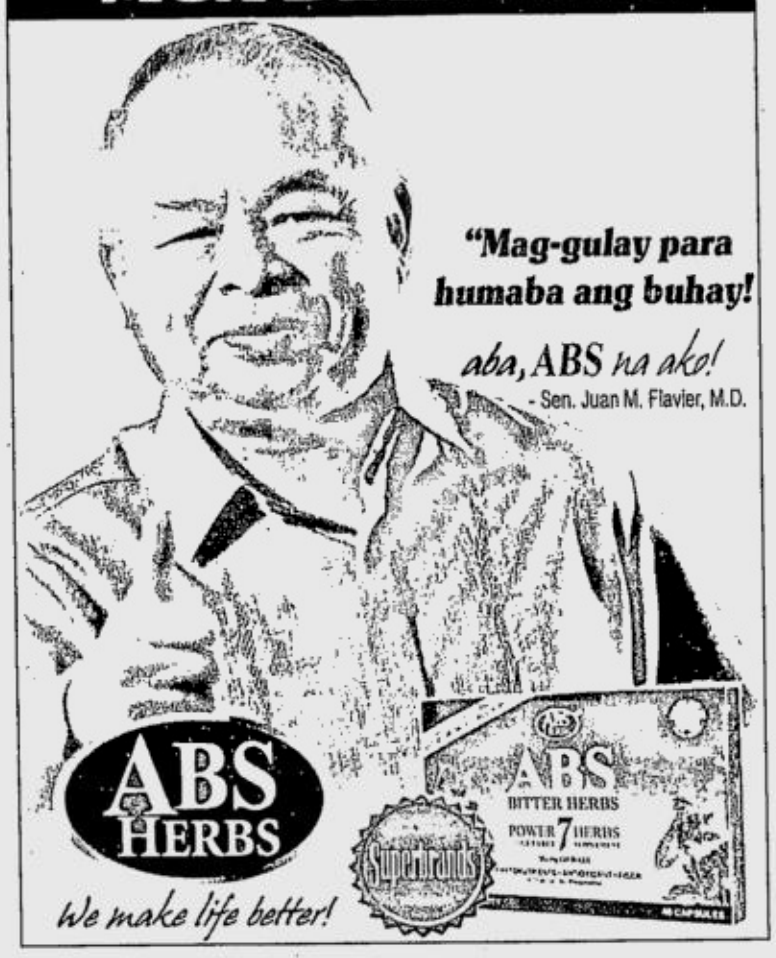

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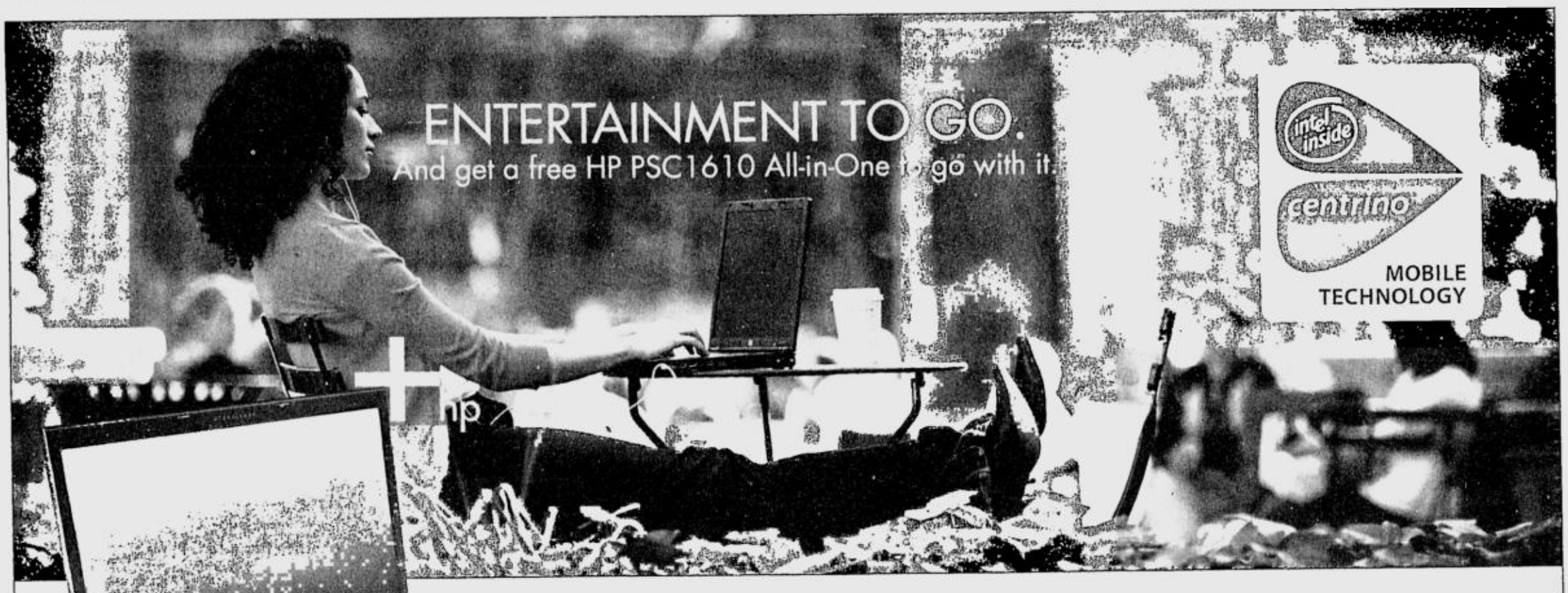

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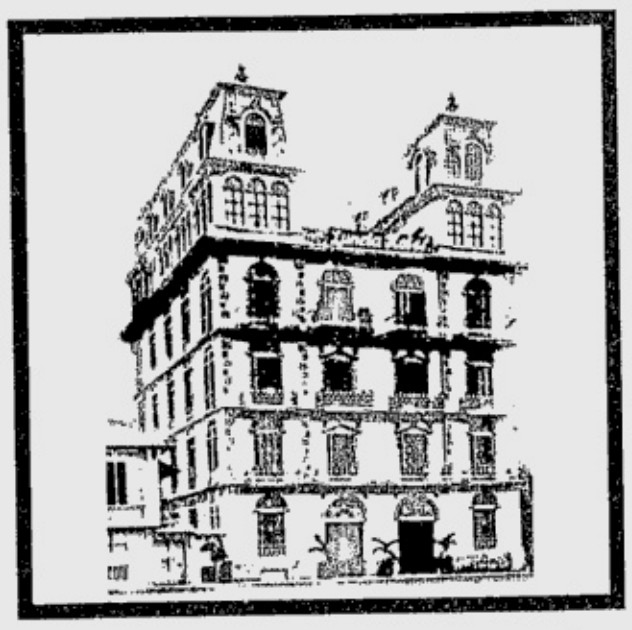
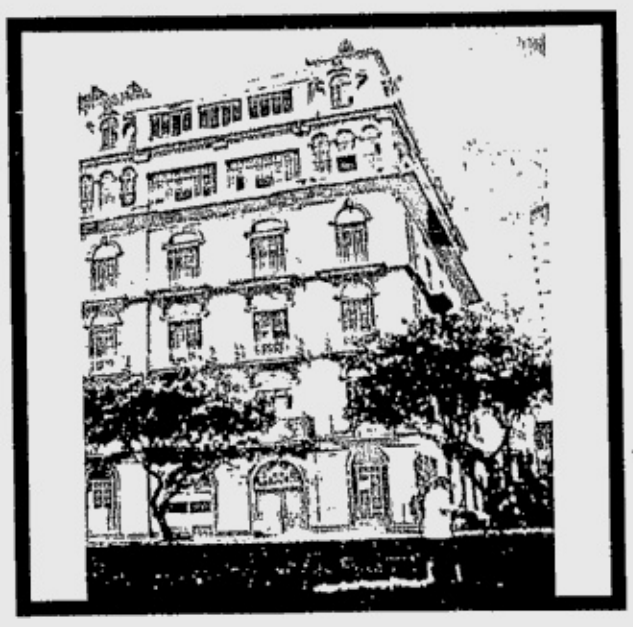
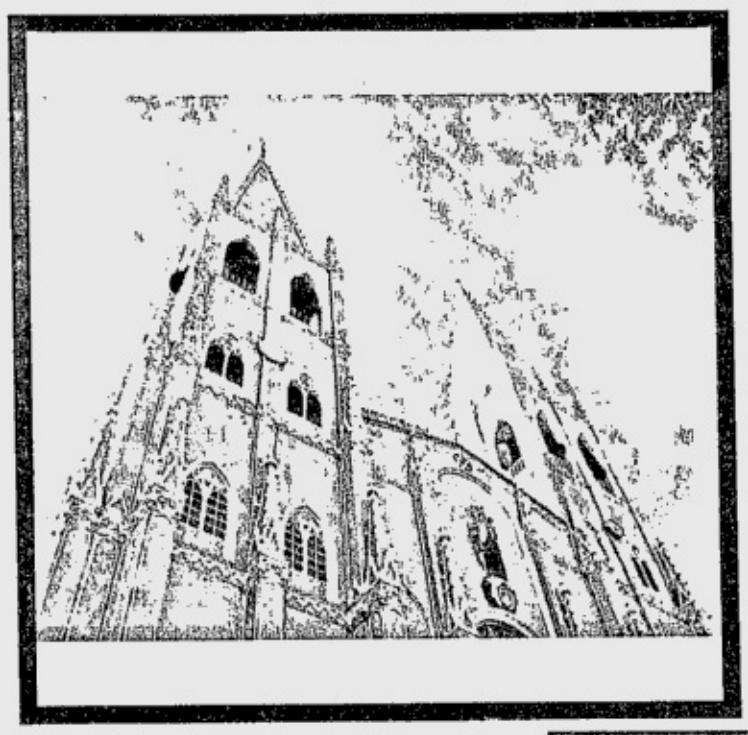




THE FRENCH Renaissance-style Luneta Hotel when it was opened in the early 20th century (left), and the building now abandoned (right) as photographed by Lisa Kahn



THE GOTHIC San Sebastian Church of the Recoleto fathers at the turn of the 20th century (below), and as it stands now (left) as photographed by Eugene Bacosa

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Take a shot at heritage

From page D1

phers, professional or amateur, Filipinos or residents of the Philippines, 16 years old and above.

Entries must be original, unpublished, and taken during 2005. A participant may submit up to two entries.

Dimensions should be from 8x10 inches up to 11x14 inches. Copies may be black-and-white or color, and should be printed in Konica Minolta photo paper. They should be framed ready for hanging in either black or white matte board (with one-inch border). The medium can be either film or digital. No entry on disk or through e-mail will be accepted.

For entry forms, information and submission details, contact Instituto Cervantes, 2515 Leon Guinto corner Estrada Streets, Malate, Manila (tel. 5261482/85).

All the entries will be screened by a panel. After the screening, qualified entries will be displayed for exhibition at the Greenbelt 3 in October as part of the Fiesta! Spanish Festival for Culture and the Arts 2005.

Heritage watch

Ivan ManDy, who does memorable walking tours of Binondo streets and other Manila places, e-mailed a plea: "I'm reporting this in the hopes of getting our street name back. A few days ago this streetwalker and once-upon-time Binondo resident had a major jolt in his acute sense of direction: He couldn't find the street of his childhood.

THE MAIN Building of the University of Santo Tomas (topmost), designed and built by the Dominican friar-engineer Roque Ruaño, in 1927. The building at present (above) as photographed by Eric Roque

"I can only imagine... what the residents and businessmen of Nueva Street in Binondo must have felt when they woke up about a month ago and suddenly found themselves staring at [the old] Nueva street sign [now reading] ET Yuchengco—a name so unrelated to what generations have known as Calle Nueva.

"For generations, this busy stretch has always been known as the 'new' [nueva in Spanish] street; a reminder of the day it opened in the year 1863 to ease traffic from our district's main avenue Calle Rosario (today Quintin Paredes Street).

"Old Chinese called it Ao-Kue-Ya or [the street] 'behind the main avenue'. Today, this stretch contains what is probably Chinatown's last pavement of cobbles—a reminder of its Spanish colonial origins.

"It [Calle Nueva] may not be as 'new' as it was in the 19th century, but up until its name was changed, everybody called it Nueva. Now we have to grapple with a long and historically unrelated street tag: ET Yuchengco.

"Yes, Mr. Yuchengco is a man whose deeds are worthy of remembrance and the generation after him has made sure that we remember the man and his actions: the Yuchengco building along Quintin Paredes, DLSU-Yuchengco Hall along Taft Avenue, Yuchengco College of Business and Management at the Mapua Institute, Yuchengco Health Center in Pangasinan province and RCBC Plaza Yuchengco towers 1 and 2 on Ayala Avenue. His legacy and name are everywhere.

"But surely, [can] a man of his stature... replace a street's original name, especially in a place as historic as our city's Binondo district? Mr. Mayor, could we have our Nueva street name and our collective memory back?"

Contact Ivan ManDy for information on his walking tours at www.oldmanilawalks.com)

Feedback is welcome at afvillalon@hotmail.com

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26th Bookfair opens Aug. 31

THE BIGGEST names and upcoming players in the publishing industry gather anew for the 26th Manila International Book Fair (MIBF), the country's chief event for the book business, at World Trade Center Metro Manila, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. and Roxas Blvd., on Aug. 31-Sept. 4.

With the theme "It's Hip to Read!" the MIBF once again unites local and foreign publishers, wholesalers, retailers, book lovers and collectors, librarians, authors, publishers' representatives, and every major player in the publishing industry in its continuing efforts to promote books and reading.

The MIBF will promote good reading habits through various activities, such as:

• Storytelling sessions by Anvil publishing, Museo Pambata and Children's Library;

• Arts and crafts workshops by the Thought Factory, Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan, Museo Pambata and the Lollipop Safety Balloons Center;

• Playstreet for children 5-8 years old (storytelling, clay molding and arts and crafts);

• Interactive Science Fun Factory by Samahang Pisika ng Pilipinas, and Discovery Channel Interactive by Verve Multi-Media, Inc.;

• Lego Early Childhood Seminar and Robotics Demonstration by Felta Multi-media, Inc.;

• Meditations and Music Reflections by Church Strengthening Ministry;

• Dianetic Lecture by New Era Publications International;

• Animation workshops by Mowelfund and Ang INK;

• Basic Haircutting and Reflexology Workshops by the Bagong Henerasyon Foundation;

• Professional Seminars by the University of the Philippines Library Science Alumni As-

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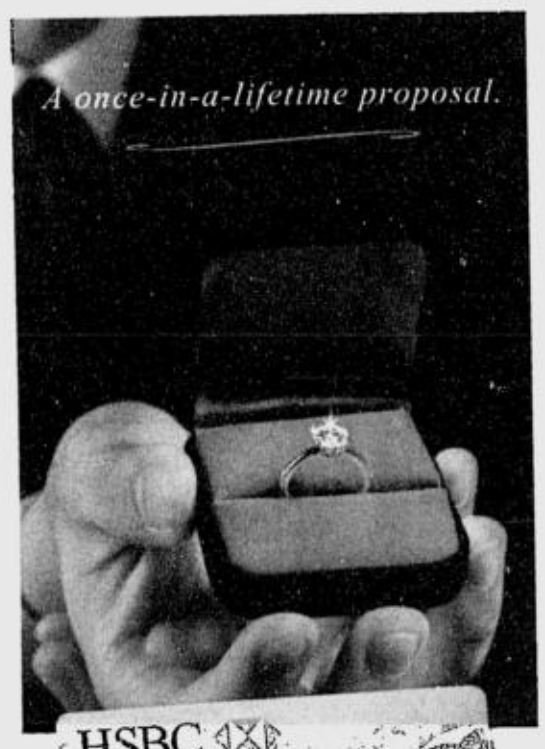
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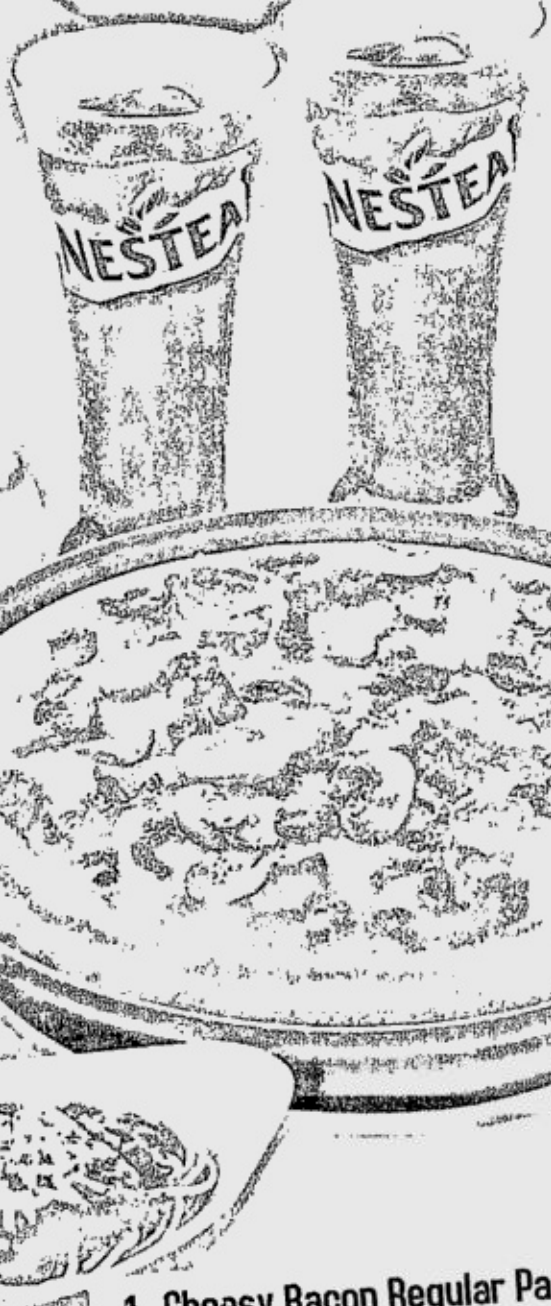
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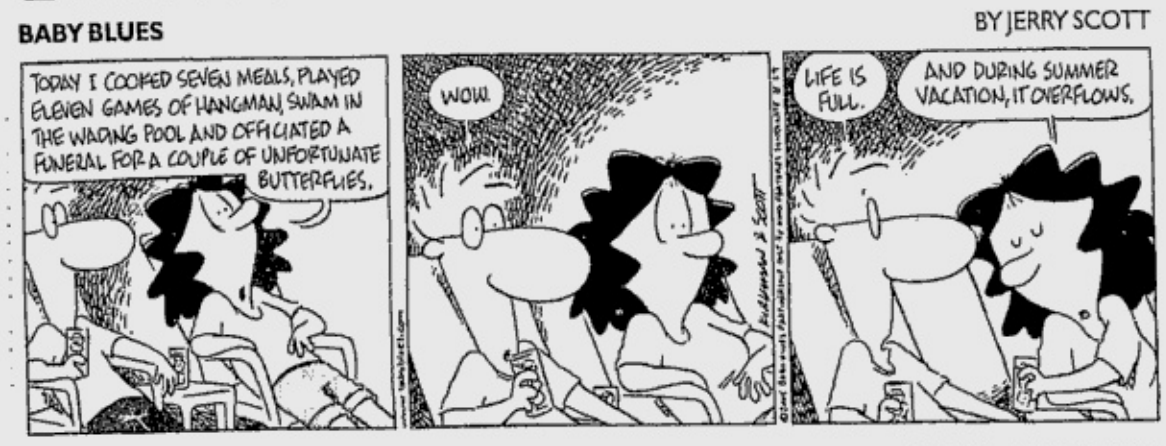

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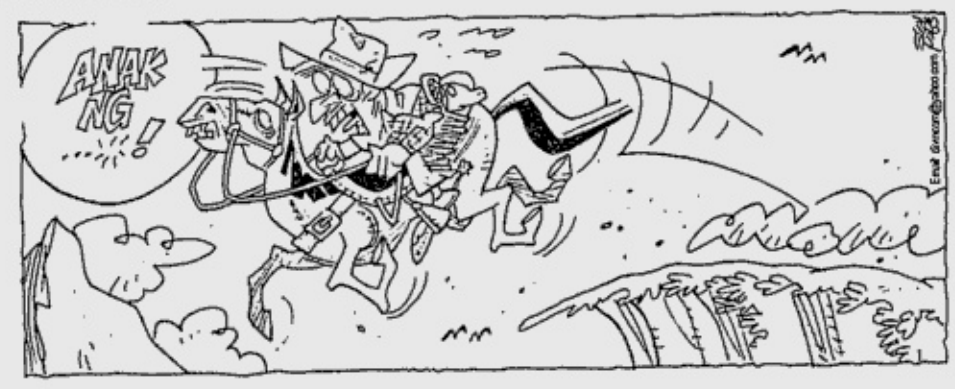


HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're practical, pragmatic and good with money. You're also confident and self-assured. You like your life to be organized. You compartmentalize things in your life so that everything is predictable. This year, you will give up things and move on to create room for something new.
Birthdate of: Cameron Diaz, actress; Andy Roddick, tennis player; Mary Shelley, author.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is the perfect day to enjoy a murder mystery or a whodunit. Mental games, movies and playful activities will delight you now. Suddenly, you're curious about everything!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You might find lost items today, especially at home. Discussions with family members are not superficial. People want to get down to brass tacks. In fact, a family member might have something rather surprising to confide in you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You can't help being obsessed by a certain idea today. You can't get it out of your mind! Perhaps you can't stop humming a song like "Who Shot the Sheriff?" (Oops, sorry.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You feel compelled to buy something today. Or perhaps you feel you want to earn money in a different way. Some kind of financial transaction has you in its grip.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're unusually convincing today. In fact, you're almost overwhelming and overbearing. If you want to find out something, you will! (Who can resist you?)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a fabulous day to research anything. You'll leave no stone unturned. You're relentless in your search for answers. (Plus, you're enjoying this!)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): A friend might ask you probing questions today. If this makes you feel uncomfortable, you don't have to answer. Alternatively, you might be the one putting somebody else in the hot seat.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Discussions with bosses, parents and authority figures are intense and extremely direct today. Nobody is sugar-coating anything. Somebody wants the facts! (Could be you.)

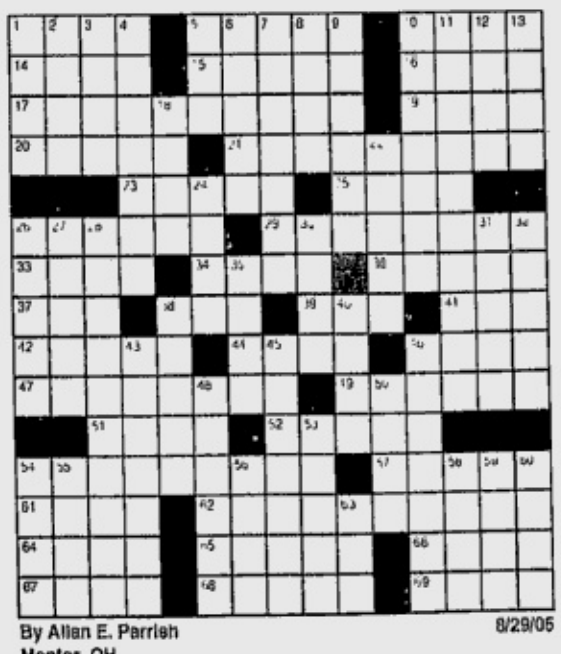
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a marvelous day to learn something new. Your ability to focus on and study anything is excellent. You might also try to persuade others to agree with your religious, political or philosophical views. (Lighten up; you're preaching to the choir.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Any kind of research you do today, especially research into financial matters, will be profitable. You'll definitely find hidden answers to things. You might unearth some scary secrets as well!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Conversations with partners and close friends could be unusually revealing today. You might learn something new about yourself and your style of relating to others.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You can be extremely effective at work today. You're determined to convince others of something. Your focus might be narrow and perhaps a bit too driven.

DAILY CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Capital of Italia
5 Secret agents
10 Nob Hill cops: abbr.
14 __ vincit omnia
15 "__ Brewster"
16 Put on
17 Main mailman
19 "__ go bragh!
20 Comedienne Fields
21 Pauses briefly
23 Lascivious creature
25 Bohemian
26 Building front
29 Indirect implication
33 Economist Greenspan
34 With 44A, group located in 17A, 62A, 11D and 28D
36 Wept
37 FDR or JFK
38 144
39 Antlered creature
41 Compass dir.
42 Toss out
44 See 34A
46 Witty remark
47 Of a bishop's bailiwick
49 Blue hues
51 Low shrub
52 Open discussion
54 Garage pump
57 Will Rogers prop
61 Related
62 Potential RBI
64 City on the Aker River
65 Greek letter
66 Actor Victor
67 Restaurateur Toots
68 Piano piece?
69 Mountain goat

DOWN
1 Spellbound
2 "Typee" sequel
3 Lion's share
4 Crafty person?
5 Health resort
6 Aggressively ambitious
7 Meantime
8 Scrapes (by)
9 Damascus denizen
10 Cardigan, e.g.
11 San Francisco gridder
12 Pray in Paris
13 Bears' lairs
18 Anthropologist Margaret
22 Pickup
24 Rip
26 Washed-out
27 Lalas of soccer fame
28 FDR's retreat
30 Turndown, from Putin
31 Thick
32 "Waiting for Lefty" dramatist
35 Civil Rights pioneer Parks
38 Actress Sharon
40 Shakespearean king
43 Quito's country
45 Filled (with)
46 Film in which Robin Williams played Allan Parrish
48 Cyndi Lauper hit
50 Bantu language
53 European lake
54 Pontiac muscle cars
55 __ Hashanah
56 Hunter's target
58 Stuffed shirt
59 Withered
60 Gemsbok
63 '60s singer Donner

By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH

8/29/05

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

D	E	C	O	R	A	T	E	D	■	S	I	L	A	S
E	L	A	B	O	R	A	T	E	■	T	R	O	M	P
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T	E	R	N	S	■	S	E	Q	U	E	S	T	E	R

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8/29/05

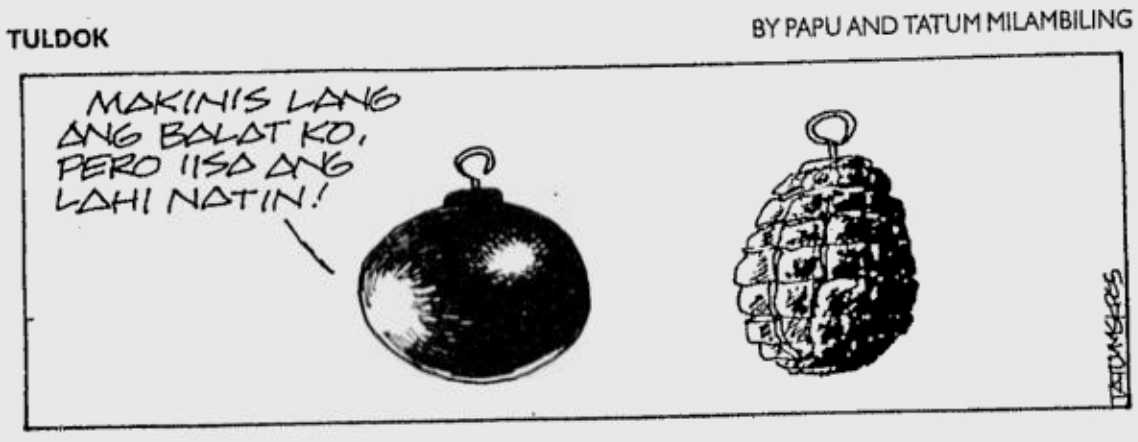
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



Mag features 'fairy' teens

WINX, the magazine for "tweens," girls aged 6-13 years, features the Boys from Red Fountain in its latest issue.

Alfea's fairies-in-training Bloom, Stella, Musa, Flora and Tecna eagerly talk about their personal encounters with the boys from the Red Fountain School, whom they met at a rocking party.

All these discussions seem to have led to something good as the girls hit upon the grand idea of forming their very own group, one that promotes friendship and teamwork – a club that promises to fight against everything evil. Thus, the Winx Club is born.

The plot thickens when two of the guys, Prince Sky and Brandon, drop by Alfea on their way to a mission. The results are exciting.

Winx Club is supported by a top-rated TV program on ABS-CBN and Cartoon Network, as well as an extremely loyal nationwide database of 25,000 active Winx Club members.

There is also an extensive complement of Winx apparel, accessories, footwear, toys and school items available in leading department stores and specialty stores in the country.

Winx Club magazine, which comes with a free premium item per issue, is available at National Book Store and magazine stands. Call 8899999 or email magazine@mywinxclub.com.

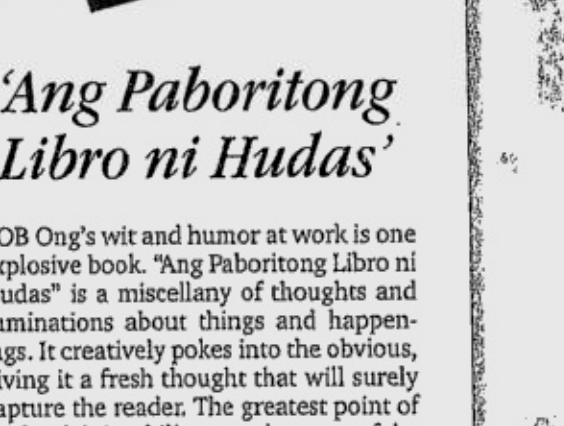
'Ang Paboritong Libro ni Hudas'

BOB Ong's wit and humor at work is one explosive book. "Ang Paboritong Libro ni Hudas" is a miscellany of thoughts and ruminations about things and happenings. It creatively pokes into the obvious, giving it a fresh thought that will surely capture the reader. The greatest point of the book is its ability to make sense of the world in an amusing way. Funny yet deep, this book is one good read. Available at selected National Book Store branches.

Get ready for Shiok!!

UNIQUELY Singapore

ARTS



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New Day library promos at book bash

SCHOOLS and institutions can start building their libraries as New Day Publishers, a leading Filipiniana and religious publishing house, holds its Ex-TRIM sale at the Manila International Book Fair at World Trade Center, Aug. 31-Sept. 4.

For a minimum of P5,000 purchase from the regular catalog, NDP will donate P2,500 worth of books from its collector's library. NDP will also extend 20-percent discount to purchases of at least P10,000, and up to 50-percent off on selected items.

On Sept. 3, cartoonists Paolo Simbulan and Armin Santaguiel will have a book-signing for their new comic books, "Lolo Sport" and "Tikbalang, Aswang, Atbp.," respectively.

Bookworms can choose from a wide array of books on the 1896 Philippine Revolution, local history, ethnology, child psychology, and organizational development penned by eminent authors such as Senators Juan Flavier and Miriam Defensor-Santiago, James Francis Warren, Dr. Tom Andres, Lito Jara, Oscar Evangelista, Ceres Alabado, Glenn Anthony May, Edilberto Tiempo, William Henry Scott.

For light reading for every member of the family, there are cookbooks, how-to and feel-good books, books on humor, parenting, inspiration and reflection, as well as comic-strip compilations by Edgar Dionela, Pol Medina Jr., Bobbi Jolbitado, Tonton Young, Alex Young and Larry Alcala.

New Day is at Booth 339, Aisle 1. Call 9288046 or 9275982, or e-mail newdayorders@edsamail.com.ph.

Vilma Santos and laws of success in Mr. & Ms.

THE SEPTEMBER issue of Mr. & Ms. features man's capability to control his mind in Jaime Licauco's column about psychic and ESP powers. An individual's strength to direct his fate toward success is discussed by Mariel Francisco in her take on Deepak Chopra's book "The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success."

Man's ability to heal the physical body is tackled in two separate articles on pranic healing.

With hot young stars Mark Herras and Jennylyn Mercado of "Encantadia" fame on the cover, the glossy monthly has much in store for the young and old alike.

Multi-awarded actress Vilma Santos is in six picture-filled pages. Read about her journey from child star to one of the most respected actors in the country to mayor of Lipa, Batangas.

Other admirable women are also featured this month, including cousins Cecille Guidote-Alvarez and Cora Guidote. A prime mover of the arts, Alvarez talks about her newest mission—fight cancer. Guidote introduces readers to the world of spirits as seen through her camera.

There are also articles about hedonistic mysticism, tantric sex, the Aquarian solution on today's politics, restless spirits and curses.

Columns include "Gay Rap," "Rainbow Crossings," "Teen Life," "Flash" and "Glitterati." A speech by the late Sen. Raul Roco is excerpted in "The Lighter Side of Raul Roco."

Mr. & Ms. comes complete with a horoscope, a directory of psychic services, fashion, beauty, health and celebrity news, and an animal-wareness focus on "Whales in Captivity."

Sourcebook on Filipino language to be launched

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Department of Filipino and Philippine Literature, in cooperation with Sangfil (Sanggunian ng Kolehiyo at Unibersidad sa Filipino) and the Programa Lumbera will launch "Lagda" and "Sourcebook sa Filipino" at Pulungang Claro M. Recto, Bulwagang Rizal (formerly Faculty Center), UP College of Arts and Letters, Diliman, Quezon City, on Aug. 30, 1 p.m.

The two publications discuss issues on Filipino language and culture, the culmination of several years of research and writing by some of the most respected professors and scholars in Philippine linguistics and Philippine studies.

Filipinologist Prospero Covar will introduce the book. UP System chancellor Sergio S. Cao is the guest of honor.

Call 9244899 or 9290113.

Book on Magsaysay honorees to be launched

THE RAMON Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF) will launch the second volume of "Great Men and Women of Asia" at 10 a.m. today at the RM Hall, Magsaysay Center, 1680 Roxas Blvd., Manila.

"Great Men and Women of Asia, Volume 2" is part of an eight-book series on the Magsaysay honorees. It tells the stories of the awardees' sterling lifework according to the award's tradition of "greatness of spirit in selfless service to the people."

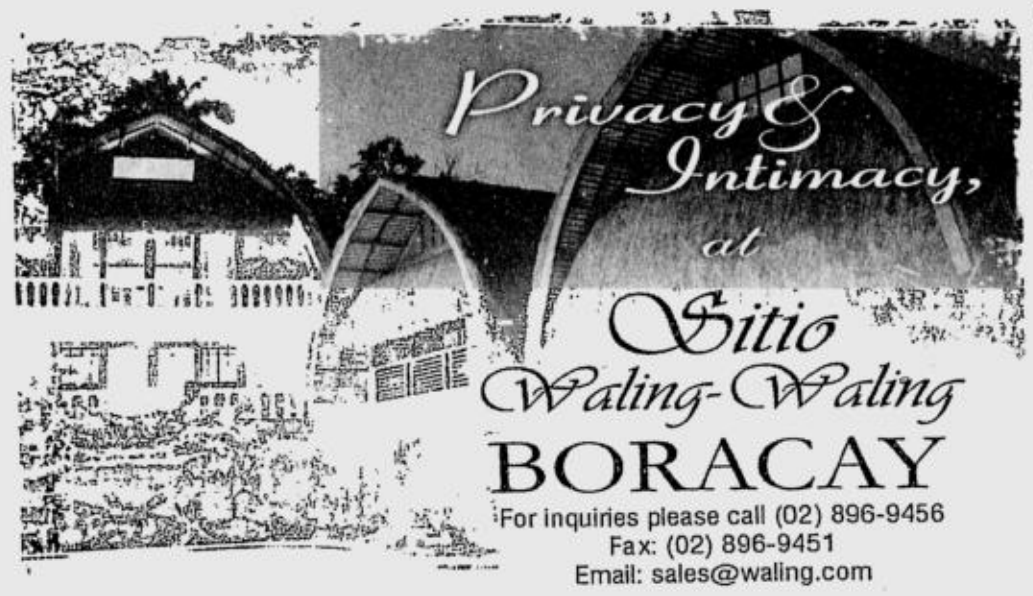
The initial volume was a selection of 15 awardees from the award's first decade, 1958-1967. The second and third volumes featuré awardees from South Asia; the fourth and fifth from Northeast Asia; and the sixth and seventh from Southeast Asia. The eighth and last will feature the organizations across Asia that have received the award.

The second is edited by noted writer Lorna Kalaw Tirol, assisted by deputy editors Rustie Otico, Angge Goloy and Girlie Naguit. Eighteen Filipino writers wrote the 37 biographical essays.

Anvil Publishing is co-publishing with RMAF the series, which is expected to close in 2007-2008, when the nation marks the birth centenary of Magsaysay.

This year's winners are: Indonesia's Teten Masduki (for public service) for "challenging Indonesians to expose corruption and claim their right to clean government"; Thailand's Jon Ungphakorn (government service) for "his impassioned insistence as a senator that Thailand respect the rights and attend humanely to the needs of its least advantaged citizens"; India's Dr. V. Shanta (public service) for her work in turning the Cancer Institute in Chennai, India, into "a center of excellence and compassion for the study and treatment of cancer in India"; Sombath Somphone of Laos (community leadership) for "his hopeful efforts to promote sustainable development in Laos by training and motivating its young people to become a generation of leaders"; Mathiur Rahman of Bangladesh (journalism, literature and creative communication arts) "for his wielding the power of the press to crusade against acid-throwing to stir Bangladeshis to help its many victims"; and Yoon Hye-ran of South Korea (emergent leadership) for "her catalytic role in enabling [her hometown] Chenoan's civil society to exercise its social responsibilities dynamically and democratically."

The awards ceremonies are on Aug. 31, 4:30-6 p.m., at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.



PowerBooks offers freebies

POWERBOOKS Specialty Store will be one of the featured exhibitors at this year's 26th International Book Fair and 2nd Learn I.T. Fair at World Trade Center.

As one of this year's biggest exhibitors, PowerBooks will be showcasing its new and bestselling titles, and will be offering a 20-percent discount. Various freebies will be given for every P1,000 purchase, and a free PowerBooks stainless mug for every P2,500 purchase (P2,000 only for Powercard and Powercard Plus holders). Wholesalers, libraries, private companies and other institutions can enjoy immediate quotations, free delivery of books, book examinations for two weeks, and flexible payment terms.

PowerBooks Specialty Store is a full-service bookstore with branches at Greenbelt 4 (7576428 to 29), Megamall (6352898 to 99), Alabang Town Center (8505662 to 63), Glorietta (7527075), Shangri-La (6380023/25) and Robinson's Place Ermita (5233334/ 5243448).

26th Bookfair opens Aug. 31

From page E1

sociation; Philippine Association of Academic Research Libraries; Philippine Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science; Book Talk Society of the Philippines; National Book Development Board; Association of Special Libraries of the Philippines; Publishers' Representatives Organization of the Philippines; Book Development Association of the Philippines; Medical and Health Librarians Association of the Philippines; Philippine Booksellers Association, Inc.; Philippine Librarians Association, Inc.; International Federation and Reproduction Rights Organization; and Philippine Reproduction Rights Organization;

• Computer-Aided Instruction and Interactive Learning Seminar by IBC Infotech;

• Purpose of Life, Resurrection and Here-After in Islam according to Qur'an and Risale-I Nur by Eternal Publications Trading.

Various publishers will also launch new titles. Among these are:

• "Reader's Digest English Reading Program"

• "New Age Learning" by Pearson Education

• "National Geographic Kids"

• "Learning to Live and Love," "Learning to Love," "Love @ Sex," "Pag-usapan Natin," "Educational Guidance in Human Love," and "The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality" by Word and Life Publication

• "Nobela at Mga Maikling Kuwento" ni Edgar Reyes, "Introduction to Economic Botany Phytopharmacology-Phytotherapy," "Language Proficiency Training for Call Centers" by C&E Publishing

• ANI 31 "Metaphors of Love (Talinhaga ng Puso)" and "Groovy: The Colors of Pacita Abad" by the Cultural Center of the Philippines

• "Legacy: One Man to Another," "Exhortations to the Men of Today from Over 50 Respected Christian Leaders and Influencers" by Church Strengthening Ministry

The 26th Manila International Book Fair is organized by Primetrade Asia, Inc. with the Asian Catholic Publishers, Inc.; Book Development Association of the Philippines; Philippine Booksellers Association, Inc.; and Publishers Representatives Organization of the Philippines.

It is supported by the Philippine Educational Publishers Association; Book Exporters Association of the Philippines; and Christian Booksellers Association-Philippine Chapter.

Call 8900661 or 8960682, or e-mail bookfair@primetradeasia.com

STATE OF THE PLANET

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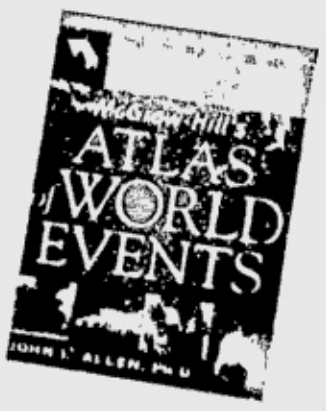

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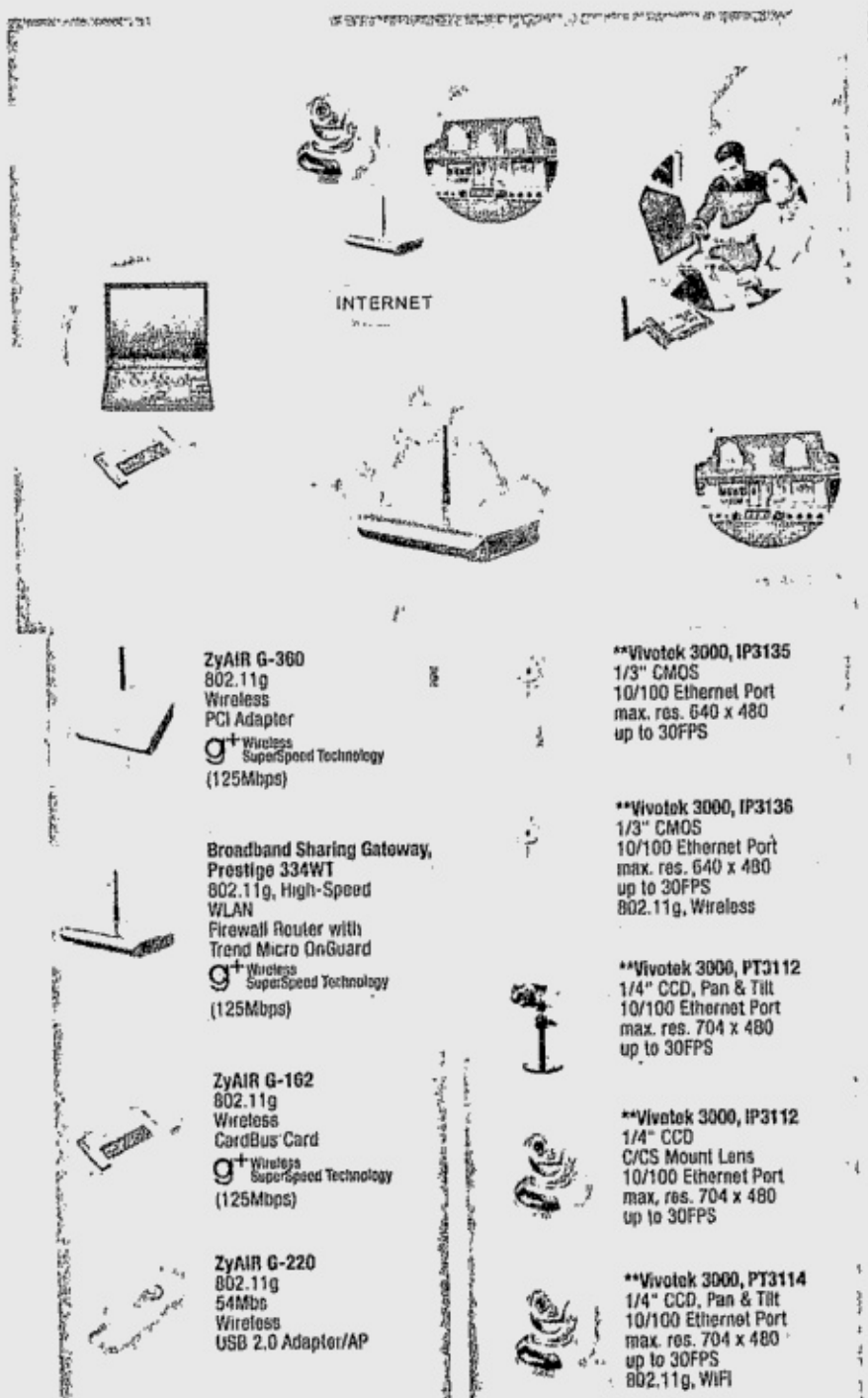

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■ ENTERTAINMENT / A32

Off-cam tension between Angel and Nadine

■ WORLD / A12

At least a million Americans flee giant hurricane

■ ACROSS / A17

Investors wary of fight over Subic top post

■ NEWS / A2

Bomb in Basilan ferry blast meant to burn, says PNP

World price hits $70 a barrel; Asia nervous

SINGAPORE—Asia yesterday shivered as a hurricane in the United States pushed oil prices beyond $70 a barrel, disrupting economic forecasts and threatening to fuel social instability halfway across the world.

From rich families planning yearend holidays to poor commuters dreading the prospect of higher bus fares, Asians were as-

WORLD/ A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Oil firms earn billions of pesos amid crisis

By Philip C. Tubeza and Abigail L. Ho

WHILE the public continues to suffer from surging fuel prices, a lawmaker yesterday noted that the country's two oil refiners have been making billions of pesos in profit.

Lone Catanduanes Rep. Joseph Santiago (NPC) said Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.

OIL FIRMS/ A10

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Tuesday, August 30, 2005 ★★ 48 pages / 3 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 263 P18

website: www.inq7.net

Economy grows 4.8%

RP shows resilience despite El Niño, rising fuel prices

By Michelle V. Remo
Business

DESPITE surging oil prices and the adverse effects of El Niño on farm output, the Philippine economy showed resilience, posting modest growth in the second quarter of the year, officials said yesterday.

The economy as measured by the gross domestic product (GDP) grew 4.8 percent in the three months to June and 4.7 percent in the first half, compared with 6.5 percent and 6.4 percent last year, respectively.

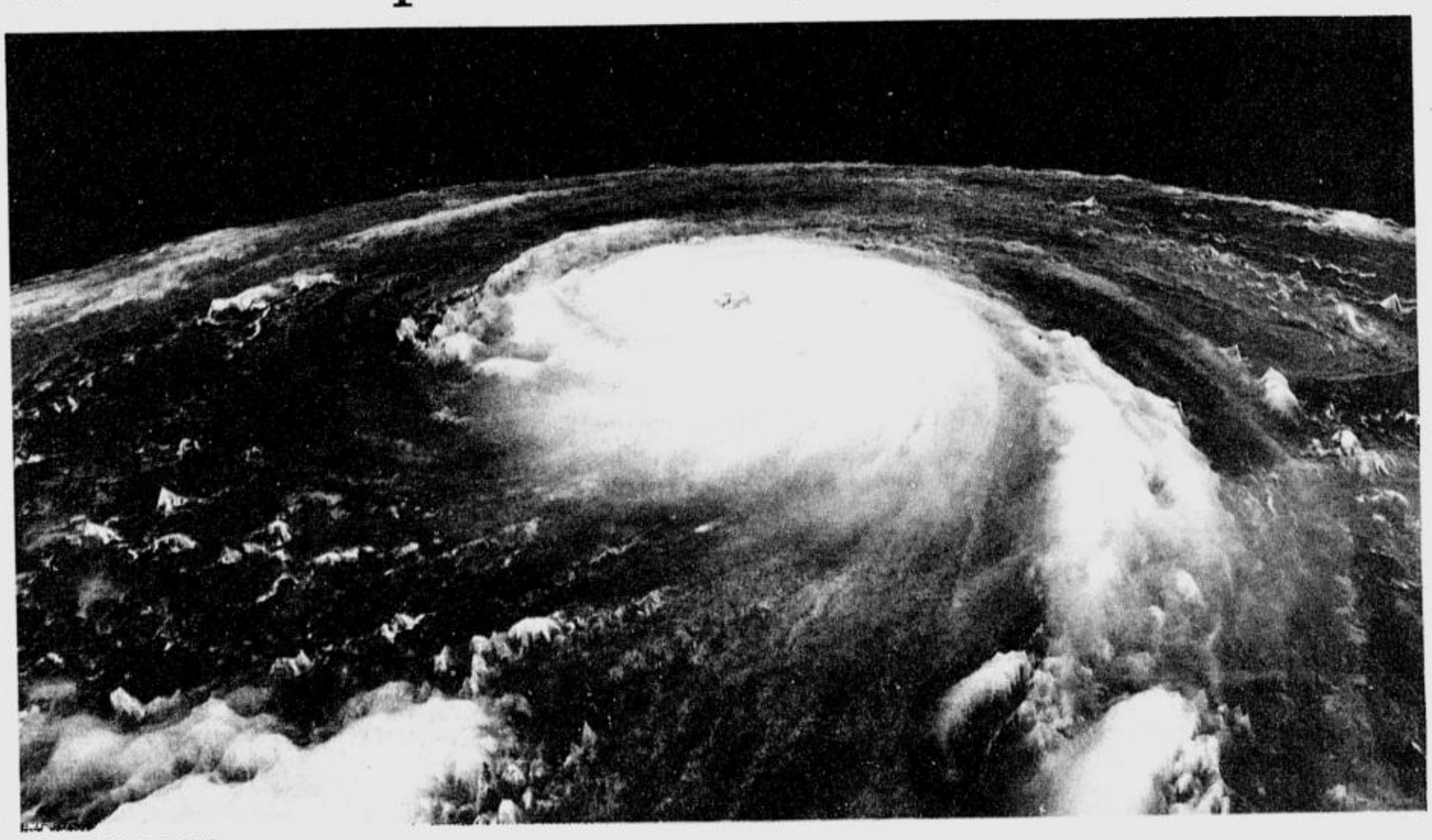
GDP is the total value of goods produced and services rendered in a given period. It does not include remittances from overseas Filipino workers.

Spending on beverage products as well as fuel, light and water fell in the first half, with the growth in food consumption also easing.

The gross national product (GNP), on the other hand, grew 4.7 percent in the second quarter compared with the 7.4 percent recorded in the same period last year. GNP is GDP plus the income of Filipinos abroad.

"The gloomy scenario of unabated spikes in oil and consumer prices, sluggish external trade and the lethargic performance of the farm sector failed to dampen the Philippine economy," said Romulo Virola, secretary general of the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB).

ECONOMY/ A10



KATRINA'S FURY
A satellite image shows Hurricane Katrina over the Gulf of Mexico. In a massive evacuation, residents and visitors have fled to emergency shelters fearing a direct hit by the powerful storm which is packing lethal winds of 280 kph. *(See story in The World, Page A12.)* AFP

Solons denounce plot to kill impeach bid today

By Michael Lim Ubac

DISGRUNTLED lawmakers of the ruling coalition yesterday announced an alleged Malacañang plot—supposedly to be carried out today—to kill the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles dismissed the claim. He said that opposition forces had no one to blame but themselves, saying they had not come up with the 79 votes needed to send the complaint to the Senate for trial. The complaint, which centers on claims Ms Arroyo rigged last year's election, only has 48 signatures.

"It's *muerto natural* (natural death)," said Nograles.

Rep. Rodolfo Bacani of Manila confirmed earlier reports that Ms Arroyo's allies would throw out the complaint before the President's departure in mid-September for the Summit of Leaders in New York marking the 60th anniversary of the United Nations.

Officials have said Ms Arroyo does not wish to carry with her to New York the embarrassment of an "impeachment baggage."

"Tomorrow ... the majority will kill the impeachment complaint on a technicality. I know this because I am a member of the majority," said the Liberal Party lawmaker and brother of Bishop Teodoro Bacani.

SOLONS/ A4

DBM to release ₱5.7B for infra projects this week

By Michelle V. Remo
Business

THE DEPARTMENT of Budget and Management is set to release P25 million to each of the 230 engineering districts for infrastructure projects amid allegations in Congress that Malacañang was using taxpayer money to quash the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The DBM said an estimated total of P5.75 billion would be disbursed to all the districts listed by the Department of Public Works and Highways to cover overdue payables for infrastructure projects, particularly those that matured in 2004.

Budget Secretary Romulo Neri said the "notices of cash allocation" worth P25 million per district would be released any day this week.

"There are a lot of contractors that have not yet received payments, and this has hurt their finances," he said.

Neri shrugged off insinuations that the cash allocations would be used to enlist support in Congress for the administration move to quash the impeachment proceedings against Ms Arroyo. He said releasing notices of cash allocations was a regular thing for the DBM.

At a press conference yesterday, Rep. Edmund Reyes of Marinduque said a number of congressmen had trooped to

DBM/ A4

JOAN BONDOC

TREES ARE NOT JUST FOR BIRDS. Two members of the White Ribbon Movement calling for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo climb a tree in Quezon City to hang signs urging her to step down.

Manila Hotel seeks permit to run Naia 3

By Clarissa S. Batino
Business

MANILA Hotel Corp. of businessman Emilio Yap, the new owner of Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco), plans to ask the Arroyo administration to allow Piatco to operate the mothballed Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3, the hotel's top official said yesterday.

In exchange, Piatco, builder of the new passenger terminal, and its shareholders would withdraw all cases against the Philippine government, Manila Hotel president Jose Lina Jr. said in an interview.

The administration must also withdraw all the cases it had filed against Piatco, Lina said.

MANILA/ A8

Joker: Impeach debates may outlast Congress

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Norman Bordadora

AT THE rate things are going, lawmakers will still be wrangling over the impeachment case against President Macapagal-Arroyo by the time the term of the present Congress expires in June 2007.

That is by the reckoning of Sen. Joker Arroyo, who urged the House of Representatives

JOKER/ A4

NAVOTAS ROBBERY

2 cops prove there are still heroes

By Luige A. del Puerto and Nancy C. Carvajal

DEFENSE Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. may have had PO2 Guinan Ibrahim and PO1 Jose Calibuso in mind when he said the other day that heroes were not necessarily to be found in the trenches.

Yesterday, Ibrahim and Calibuso not only collared a robbery suspect whose gang had killed a businessman, they also returned intact to the victim's relatives the more than P1 million in cash and checks the robbers had stolen.

"These are the heroes of the Northern Police District," said Director Vidal Querol, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office.

Chief Supt. Raul Gonzales, NDP director, said: "They returned the money intact. Not a centavo was missing."

Talking about heroes at a National Heroes Day ceremony on Sunday, Secretary Cruz said that battles today were no longer fought in the trenches but in how people lived their lives every day.

Speaking at the same ceremony, historian Ambeth Ocampo said heroism took different forms and shapes.

2 COPS/ A8

MONEY CAN'T TEMPT THEM. PO2 Guinan Ibrahim and PO1 Jose Calibuso won praise after nabbing suspect Jojo Gregorio Tan (middle) and returning over P1 million a gang had stolen from a Navotas businessman.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2005

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/08/30/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

PNP: Bomb designed to burn

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Jeoffrey Maitem, Julie Alipala and Charlie C. Señase
PDI Mindanao Bureau

THE BOMB that injured 30 people on a passenger ferry appeared to have been designed to only cause a fire, the Philippine National Police said Monday, while President Macapagal-Arroyo blamed terrorists, with officials pointing the finger at the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group.

PORT security frisks passengers prior to boarding a passenger ferry at Manila South Harbor Monday. Security has been tightened in all ports of the country following an explosion aboard a ferry in Basilan. AP

CLARK Sestina, a 9-year-old Filipino victim of a blast on a ferry, is fed by his grandmother Lucita Lequin at a government hospital in Zamboanga City Monday. REUTERS

"It was found that a low explosive substance was used here, unlike in previous bombings," said PNP spokesperson Leopoldo Bataoil of Sunday morning's blast aboard the MV Doña Ramona as it was boarding passengers at the Dangkalan wharf in Lamitan, Basilan.

"If it's a low explosive, the effect would be a burning effect that could cause fire," Bataoil said.

He said it was not clear why the substance was used instead of a highly explosive substance, but it was possible the perpetrators' aim was only "to instill fear and panic."

President Arroyo in a statement said, "I condemn the ferry bombing... as a crime against peace and humanity that will not go unpunished. I have directed our security forces to pinpoint and hunt down the perpetrators who have shown a total disregard for the law and human life."

The ferry was preparing to depart with more than 300 passengers for nearby Zamboanga City when the bomb went off. At least six people were badly injured, including a soldier, with nine children among the casualties.

PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao quickly flew to Lamitan and created an investigative task force composed of bomb experts, investigators, crime lab experts and officers from the local police command.

Bataoil said police were using witness accounts to draw a sketch of the man suspected to have left the bomb, hidden in a cardboard box filled with old clothes, on a counter in the canteen at the rear of the ferry. The suspicious-looking man hurriedly disembarked, said Brig. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer, 103rd Army Brigade commander, who also rushed to the scene.

Ferrer said no one had claimed responsibility for the attack, but the Abu Sayyaf, which has a presence on Basilan, was a prime suspect.

Last year, a bomb went off on the SuperFerry 14 in Manila Bay, killing 116 people in the country's worst terror attack. The Abu Sayyaf took responsibility for the blast. Two bombs that wounded 30 people in Zamboanga City early this month were also blamed on the group.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga said the bomb attack was the handiwork of the Abu Sayyaf.

"That is the consensus of all investigative agencies handling the case. That is the initial conclusion," Senga said in an interview in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

He said the conclusion was "based on the existing threat and the capability of the group to conduct such an atrocity."

Senga theorized the Abu Sayyaf attacked the Doña Ramona to divert the military's attention away from its pursuit of Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani in Central Mindanao.

Lomibao, however, was not so quick to blame the Abu Sayyaf.

"Definitely it was a terrorist attack but we cannot say for sure," he said.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which in the past had been blamed for almost every bombing incident in the country, is helping the government this time.

The MILF said it had deployed personnel to gather information on who was behind the ferry bombing.

"The MILF is helping in hunting down the perpetrators of the latest attack against civilians," said Ghazali Jaafar, MILF vice chief for political affairs.

The MILF moved even without a formal request from the government. The peace talks between the government and the MILF are currently suspended.

"We denounce terrorism. Right now, we are in the process of gathering information. We have alerted our men in Basilan to inform us if they have information about those behind the ferry blast," Jaafar said.

He said the move was part of their commitment to the guidelines of the Adhoc Joint Action Group (Adjac), which is composed of representatives from both the government and MILF and is tasked to stop terrorists and kidnappers.

Chief Supt. Sukarno Ikbala, police director of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said the explosive was not meant to kill.

"Unlike other bomb attacks that were meant to kill and destroy, this one was different because the explosive had no shrapnel as evidenced by the victims who only suffered burns," Ikbala said.

Supt. Jose Bayani Gusela, Zamboanga City Police deputy director and chief of the local police Explosives and Ordnance Detection Unit, was more definite.

"The suspect or suspects used a black powder commonly found in pyrotechnics," he said.

"We don't see any pattern similar to previous explosions," he added.

Because of this, Emilia Torres has no one to blame for what happened to her son, 18-year-old Emmanuel.

"It pains me to see my son suffering," Torres said. "I just pray they'll be arrested and jailed."

With an AP report

Police can't guarantee safety from terrorists

By Luige A. del Puerto and Jocelyn R. Uy

FRESH from his visit to Lamitan, Basilan, the country's top cop yesterday said the police could not protect every square meter of Philippine territory from "determined terrorists."

In a similar vein, even the most advanced countries in the world were not exempt from terrorism, said Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao.

"As far as the other regions of the country are concerned, we cannot entirely guarantee (their) safety," Lomibao told reporters. "If only we have all the (security) preparations in place... if we have all the possible intelligence sources that we (can) have, then we can guarantee (safety)," Lomibao said

But asked if he meant the police were helpless against terrorists, Lomibao said, "No."

Earlier yesterday, National Capital Region Police Office chief Director Vidal Querol said his men had never let their guard down.

Following the Lamitan bombing, Querol placed the police in Metro Manila under heightened alert, ordering "target hardening measures in all places where people converge."

To "harden a target" means deploying more cops to watch over an area.

"I deployed additional police to secure our railways and buses... and malls," he said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

Choke points, usually set up at the entry or exit points of a city or town, had also been established, he said.

"(But) I ask our citizens to continue with (their) daily lives and not be alarmed but be vigilant... against terror. The metro police is control," he said.

The military, meanwhile, has not raised its alert level despite the Basilan blast.

"Metro Manila and other parts of the country are safe," said Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Generoso Senga.

But he added, "There are continuing threats, that's why we are calling for eternal vigilance from our military and police forces and we are asking for the help of the citizenry."

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. also called for vigilance against terrorist attacks. *With Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

RP banking on ethanol, the 'fuel of the future'

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE COUNTRY is turning to the "fuel of the future" or ethanol to help ride out the crisis sparked by high oil prices.

Noting that the price of oil in the United States has hit a record high of $70 per barrel, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday declared that the regime of inexpensive oil prices had ended but vowed the country "would not allow itself to be held hostage" by this development.

"We will not allow the situation to immobilize us," Ms Arroyo said in yet another round table discussion with energy officials aired over the government-run NBN-4 TV station.

Underscoring the need for the country to look for "new sources of oil," the President quoted multinationals as saying that the "fuel of the future" was ethanol.

In the TV program, Ms Arroyo went to the extent of "certifying as urgent" the proposed "fuel bio-diesel bill" authored by Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri and almost 100 other congressmen and which was up for second reading in the House.

According to Zubiri, who was also in the TV program, the bill seeks to mandate oil companies to blend ethanol in their gasoline up to 10 percent.

"It's a non-political, non-controversial bill," Zubiri told the President.

Ethanol, derived from fruits and plants such as cassava and sugar cane, could be used as a "blending mixture to gasoline" in order to bring down gas prices, the Bukidnon representative said.

The good thing about ethanol, he continued, was that it was "sustainable" for as long as sugar cane or cassava could be planted in the country.

Ethanol, right now, is imported. It was only yesterday that ethanol-blended gasoline was made available in the country by small oil player Sea Oil which started selling ethanol at its gas station at Edsa corner Quezon avenue.

MAGSAYSAY LAUREATES The six Magsaysay Awardees link hands at their presentation to the press Monday in Manila. They are, from left, Jon Ungphakorn-Government Service; Teten Masduki-Public Service; V. Shanta-Public Service; Sombath Somphone-Community Leadership; Matiur Rahman-Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication; and Hye-Ran Yoon-Emergent Leadership. REM ZAMORA

Lao educator shows how to teach shy kids 'courage'

By Volt C. Contreras

ONE of this year's Ramon Magsaysay awardees, farmer-educator Sombath Somphone of Laos shares a tip on how teachers can help young people come out of their shell, develop communication skills and eventually, build leadership traits.

Running a non-profit youth and livelihood training center based in Vientiane, Somphone has devised group exercises and outdoor activities where the more timid participants can "wear masks" if they have stage fright or are simply not used to a big audience.

Once the masked speakers have built the "courage" to speak to a crowd, the mask would come off, according to Somphone, explaining his rather unorthodox method.

"It's more like a game, but the idea is to bring out their courage," said the US-trained agriculturist and teacher who helped organize hundreds of "shy" Laotian youths into volunteers for long-term development projects especially in the rural areas.

It was one of the tales of struggle and achievement marking yesterday's media presentation of the 2005 recipients of the "RM" Awards, considered the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

Somphone won the yearly citation for his work in community leadership.

Other awardees are: Senator Jon Ungphakorn of Thailand (for government service), Teten Masduki of Indonesia (public service), Dr. V. Shanta of India (public service), Matiur Rahman of Bangladesh (journalism, literature and creative communication arts) and Hye-Ran Yoon of Korea of South Korea (emergent leadership).

The honorees arrived in Manila over the weekend and will be conferred the awards in ceremonies on Aug. 31 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

In his opening remarks, Somphone said the youth, as he observed them in Laos, were leading "unsustainable lives" due to the influence of globalization and consumerism, and "we adults are not preparing them enough" as the caretakers of society.

"They follow trends in fashion, mobile phones, branded clothes, motorcycles and cars. But deep down, they seem kind of lost," he later said in an INQUIRER interview.

"[Ask them] what they plan to do, what kind of life they want, what they want to be, they can't answer. But ask them which model is this or which brand is that, they all know it," he added.

The Laotian awardee was cited for his work as founder and director of the Participatory Development Training Center (Padetc), a private nonprofit institution established in 1996, whose efforts are now felt in 14 out of his country's 17 provinces.

After studying education and agriculture in Hawaii in '80s, he became engaged in several farming projects back home but soon realized that his people needed to be trained and organized "to sustain the momentum."

Training farmers was not enough, he recalled. Hence, through Padetc, he started gathering college graduates and rural-based youths to teach them the basics of project management, data-gathering, feasibility studies, etc.

One recurring hurdle had to be overcome, though: "Our young people are generally shy, especially the girls," he conceded, when asked how the training usually started.

"So what I do is I put a mask on them and send them out in the public arena where they can talk with their masks on. It's often the first step to overcome their own fears and shyness," Somphone said. "And pretty soon they would no longer need their masks and take courage from their teamwork."

Strong typhoon hovers near Northern Luzon

By Norman Bordadora

A TYPHOON packing winds of 150 kph near the center entered the Philippine area of responsibility yesterday but is not expected to hit land in Northern Luzon.

"Typhoon Isang" was spotted 1,100 kilometers east of Batanes at 2 p.m. yesterday. It was moving west at a 22-kph clip and had gustiness of up to 185 kph.

Public storm signals were not raised as late as yesterday afternoon because the typhoon's track indicated it might not make landfall in the country.

Pagasa forecast Visayas and Mindanao as experiencing mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms today.

It said the rest of the country would have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening. It also predicted light to moderate winds from the southwest and west would prevail over the land.

Pagasa said moderate to occasionally strong winds blowing from the southwest would hit Northern Luzon. Coastal waters in the area would be moderate to occasionally rough.

Metro Manila would have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening. The area's winds, blowing from the southwest, would be light to moderate, the weather bureau said.

Gov't eyes Japan to help fund P1.2-B waste treatment plant

THE GOVERNMENT is pushing for the building of a P1.2-billion hazardous waste treatment plant in the country to address the problem of increasing volume of untreated toxic waste.

Environment Secretary Michael T. Defensor has ordered the Natural Resources Development Corp. to find sources of government counterpart fund for the ambitious project.

The NRDC was also tasked to review the four-year-old proposal by the Japan International Cooperation Agency to finance the treatment plant on a loan.

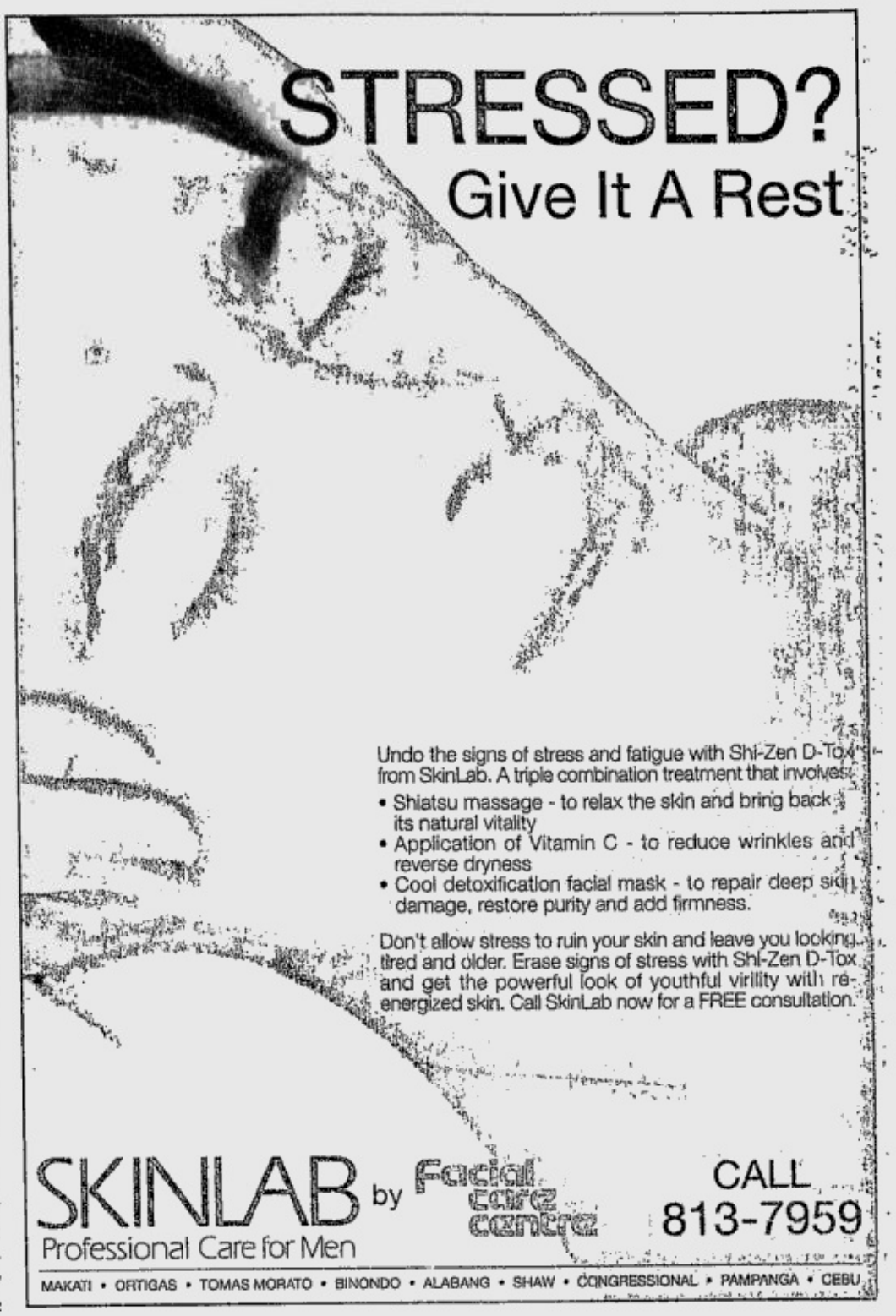
"This is the first time that we have seriously tried to seek ways to come up with GOP counterpart," NRDC president Angelico T. Salud said in an interview after an executive committee meeting called by Defensor last week.

He said Defensor has instructed him to tap the more "liberal" banks, which have loan quotas for environmental projects.

The NRDC is expected to meet with the Development Bank of the Philippines and the Landbank of the Philippines within the week to discuss the possibility of securing a P200-million loan.

The Philippine government is required to shell out 25 percent of the total project cost, based on the JICA proposal. The rest would still be a soft loan from JICA.

Blanche S. Rivera



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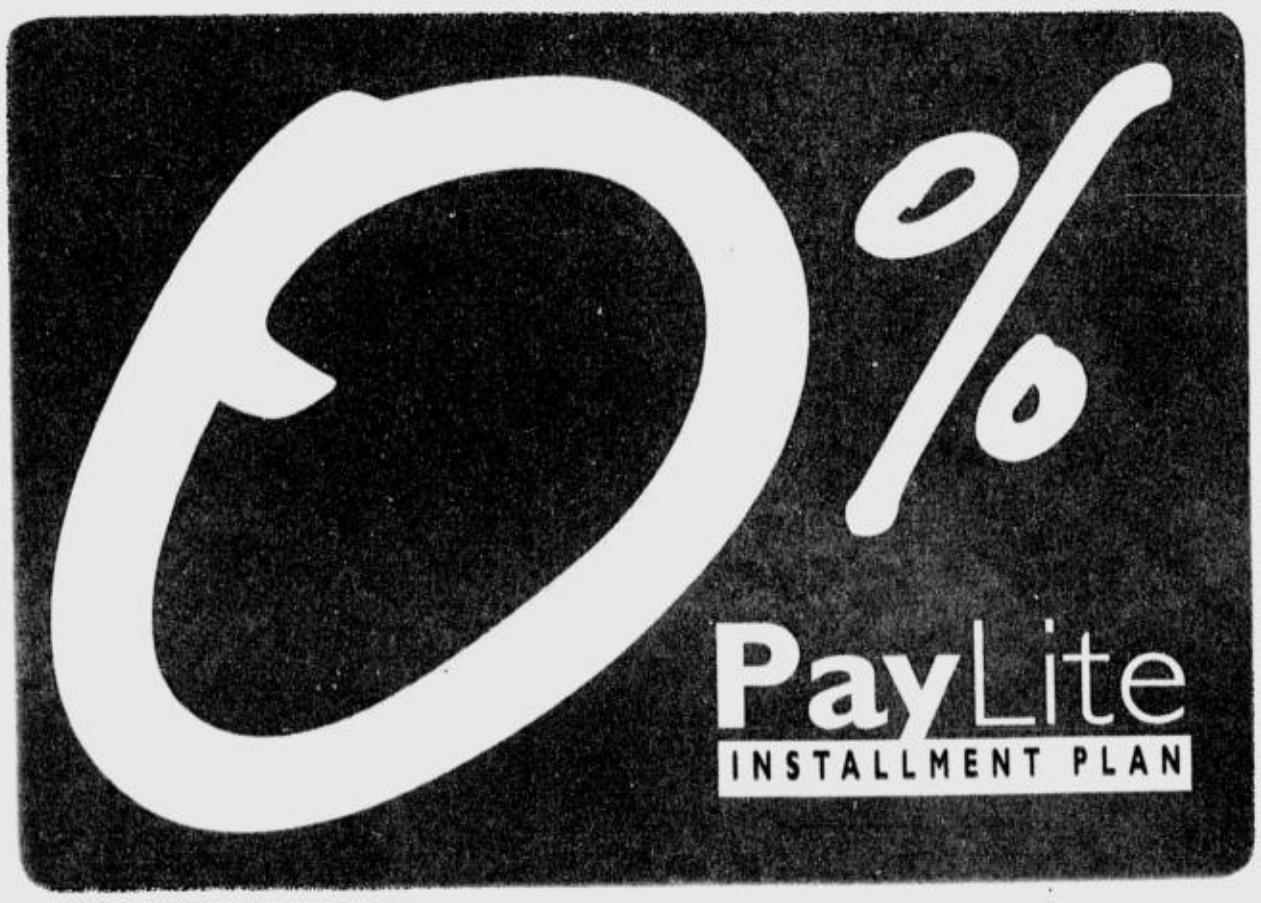

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Solons denounce plot to kill impeach bid today

From page A1

Nograles said the House justice committee would cast a make-or-break vote in the next two days on two prejudicial questions—constitutional issues that must first be resolved before the panel could proceed to determine if the complaint is sufficient in form and substance worthy of a Senate trial.

To be put to a vote today is the question: "Is the amended impeachment complaint a separate and distinct complaint?"

The second question, "Does the Lozano impeachment complaint bar the filing of the two other complaints?" will be tackled tomorrow.

Nograles said the opposition was running out of arguments and Congress could not debate during its entire 60-day session this year. "The time to vote has come," he said. "We're tired."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye denied that Malacañang was plotting to kill the impeachment process. "If they don't have the 79 (votes), well, that's the end of it in the House," he said.

Lawmakers have said Ms Arroyo's allies are prepared to consider only the first complaint filed by a private lawyer, Oliver Lozano.

Regarded as the weakest of three complaints, the Lozano pleading is based on a wire-tapped telephone conversation between Ms Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Lozano charged Ms Arroyo's admission that she talked with an election official during the balloting constituted betrayal of public trust.

The subsequent impeachment complaints included allegations of bribery, graft and corruption and culpable violation of the Constitution.

Ms Arroyo has vehemently denied any wrongdoing, insisting she won the balloting "fair and square."

Good as dead

"If the majority wants the process to continue, they should entertain the amended complaint or allow the consolidation of the three complaints," said Rep. Robert Ace Barbers of Surigao del Norte.

Should the majority decide to vote in support of the Lozano complaint, "then the whole process is good as dead," said Barbers, an Arroyo ally who joined the opposition initiative last week.

"If we want to survive this, the House has to send to the Senate a stronger complaint—either the amended case or a consolidation of the three," said Barbers.

"For me, the plan to kill the complaint amounts to deception of the people and would render the offer from the administration to resolve the issue through the legal process a dirty ploy," Bacani said.

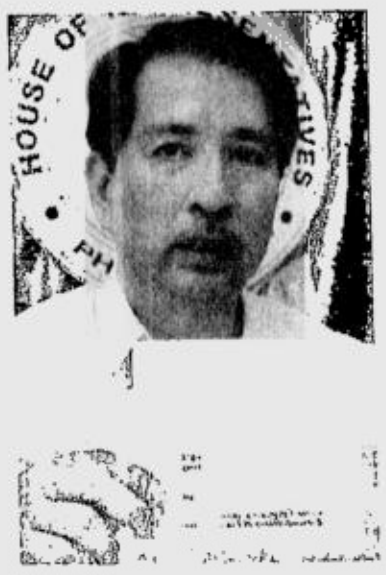
"We must give President Arroyo a chance to face the charges against her, prove her innocence in a fair and genuine trial because this is the only remaining legal process for truth to come out," said Bacani. He stressed that he was against calls for the resignation of the President.

In the midst of the apparent Palace juggernaut in Congress, another lawmaker joined Ms Arroyo's ranks.

Rep. Florencio Vargas wrote a letter to Senate President Franklin Drilon resigning from the Liberal Party.

Vargas said the party had decided to support impeachment. "Unfortunately for me, I cannot do so," he said.

"I believe that under the circumstances, the better, rather than the worse, situation for the country is to keep the status quo in the top leadership of the land," he said.



BACANI

On the eve of the crucial vote in Congress, Susan Roces called on administration lawmakers "not to obstruct the search for truth."

"The issues concern the entire nation. I think when the interest of the nation is at stake there should be no room for partisan politics," said the widow of the late movie actor Fernando Poe Jr.

As the worst political crisis to engulf the 4-year-old Arroyo presidency comes to a head, the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines issued a pastoral letter calling on the faithful to join a "Day of Conversion, Reparation and Consecration" on Sept. 12, the feast day of the Virgin Mary.

"Let us not forget that in many moments of our nation's history, She has graciously favored us with unity and spiritual courage in the midst of our crisis," said the letter by Archbishop Fernando Capalla, the CBCP president.

'Let truth come out'

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Bishop Antonio Tobias of Novaliches recalled the CBCP position in July that shied away from calling for Ms Arroyo's resignation but declared that she should not dismiss demands that she step aside.

Tobias said Ms Arroyo appeared to be ignoring the CBCP's plea, pointing out that her allies were out to quash the impeachment complaint.

"If they won't allow the truth to come out in the impeachment, the people will use the other venues available to them, such as taking to the streets," said Tobias, convenor of the Inter-Faith Movement for Truth, Justice and Genuine Change. The movement is calling for Ms Arroyo's resignation.

Tobias urged parish priests, religious communities, lay leaders, organizations and movements under the Diocese of Novaliches to participate in a Mass for the Nation at St. Peter Church this morning. He said they should join "the collective expression of the people's vigilance."

Leftwing and moderate groups have announced they would mount demonstrations to support the impeachment process.

Joining the protest today is a group of concerned administrators, faculty members, professionals, staff and students of Ateneo de Manila University.

In a statement, the group called on the House committee to "let the truth emerge" to facilitate "a peaceful and constitutional resolution of the present crisis and stalemate." *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza, Christine O. Avendaño, Leila B. Salavarria and Norman Bordadora*

DBM to release ₱5.7B for infrastructure projects this week

From page A1

Malacañang since the weekend ostensibly to pledge their support for the President in exchange for the release of pork barrel funds.

"What are they doing there?" asked Reyes. He said the lawmakers were supposed to be independent since they were serving as "fiscals" in the House justice committee impeachment hearings.

Taxpayer money

Reyes said it was possible that the P25 million, which was reportedly released by the Department of Budget and Management for each of the 236 members of the lower chamber, was being dangled to lawmakers for political ends

"This is wrong. The money is not the President's but the taxpayers'. I appeal to my fellow congressmen to accept it because they are intended to fund the projects in their districts, but vote according to your conscience," he said.

Neri said the government would source the funds from savings resulting from the government's underspending in the first seven months of the year.

He said the government spent P9 billion less than the programmed expenditure, and P13 billion less than the programmed payment on loan interests in the first seven months of the year.

In addition, the finance department earlier reported that for the January-July period, the government's budget deficit stood at only P82.57 billion, or P33.63 billion lower than the officially programmed P116.2 billion.

The P33.63-billion difference was a combination of lower-than programmed expenditures and higher-than-programmed revenue collections.

Different from pork barrel

Budget Undersecretary Mario Relampagos clarified that notices of cash allocation were different from the pork barrel funds received by legislators.

He explained that the notices of cash allocation were given directly to the government agencies concerned, in this case the DPWH. The funds are not given to legislators, he stressed.

Relampagos further explained that every time the government saved a certain amount from underspending, it used the amount to pay overdue payables.

The government does not always pay its liabilities to contractors on time, given its fiscal problem, he said.

"In budgeting, the order of priorities is this: Salaries of government employees and officials, operating expenses, and then payment for infrastructure," he said.

"We cannot afford not to prioritize salaries of workers, and we cannot function without spending for operations like electricity. Infrastructure is just the third priority," he added.

So when the government saved a certain amount from its programmed budget, then it could use part of, or the entire, savings to pay for overdue payables for infrastructure projects, he said.

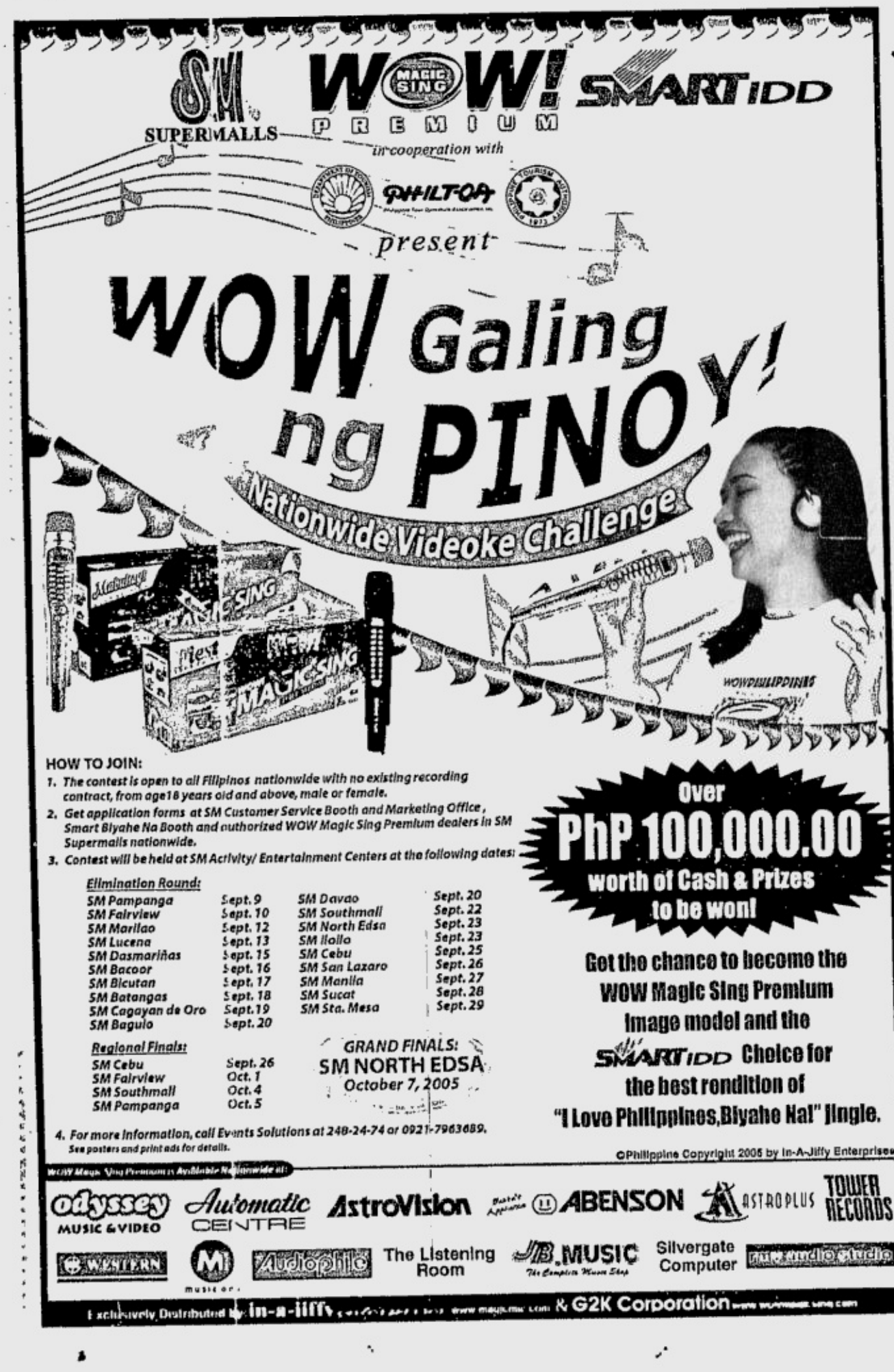
A notice of cash allocation is an authority given to a government agency to spend the amount stated. It functions like a check and can be deposited, Neri explained.

Neri clarified that the funds for the notices of cash allocation per district would not come from the road users' tax.

The road users' tax is the tax collected from private and public vehicle owners yearly when they register with the Land Transportation Office. The collection of the tax, however, was only effective until last year.

The funds raised from the road users' tax, estimated at about P7 billion, were supposed to cover the maintenance of national and provincial roads and programs to minimize air pollution and the acquisition of traffic lights.

Earlier, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. accused the President of using some P1.4 billion in road users' tax to fund her political project "Kalsada Natin, Alagaan Natin" during the presidential campaign. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*



Joker: Impeach debates ...

From page A1

yesterday to speed up action on "this never-ending drama" that, he said, has paralyzed the country.

Arroyo's estimate has not even factored in the possibility that the Supreme Court may be asked to step into the case to resolve some contentious questions, further holding up final Congress action.

Arroyo said the House and the Senate had neglected their legislative work because of the impeachment impasse.

"The country is in a state of paralysis, numbed by this never-ending drama of impeachment," he said in a statement on the eve of a possible House vote on procedural issues that had stalled the impeachment debate.

In Erap's time

Arroyo said that at its current pace, the House would not be able to dispose of the matter until September next year, or five months before the start of the 2007 elections.

"We are talking here only of the plenary deliberations of the House, where the Constitution does not put a time limit," he said.

He recalled that in the impeachment case against deposed President Joseph Estrada, the House transmitted to the Senate four articles of impeachment concerning plunder.

Only Article I and the first half of Article II were heard before the trial was scuttled when Estrada's allies voted against opening a second envelope of evidence, leading to a walkout of prosecutors.

Arroyo served as one of the House prosecutors in the Estrada trial that triggered Edsa II.

Prolonged debate

Arroyo said that in the Estrada trial, the Senate, acting as an impeachment court, spent roughly 175 session hours for the 1½ articles it tackled, or 116 hours per article of impeachment.

"Transporting that to the House plenary deliberations where, at a minimum, there are no less than 10 articles on the table, it will take 1,160 hours to deliberate on them. At five hours per session, it would take 232 days, with no recess at all for the House, to decide whether to transmit it to the Senate or not."

And should the House decide to send the articles to the Senate, "it will take the Senate the same number of hours and session days to resolve the impeachment," Arroyo said.

He said the 13th Congress would expire in June 2007.

"It would thus leave the impeachment hanging, stranded and unresolved," he said.

Arroyo said the country was already paying a high price for the unresolved impeachment issue.

Arroyo formula

"Both chambers have not been able to attend to their legislative work ... The majority and the minority in the House should get together to work out a solution to this overlooked time problem," Arroyo said.

The senator suggested a way out.

"For starters, the opposition should be sporting enough to delete the obviously unimpeachable articles in their list and the majority should be equally sporting and accept a shortened list regardless of who filed it and when. The issues have been so over-discussed already it is time to vote on it," Arroyo said.

One of the framers of the 1987 Constitution and dean emeritus of the Ateneo Law School, Fr. Joaquin Bernas, yesterday said that he expected the Supreme Court to once again play the role of final arbiter.

Multiple complaint

He said the court would likely be asked to settle the matter of the multiple impeachment complaints pending against Ms Arroyo.

"Eventually, it will come down to that," Bernas told the INQUIRER.

He said: "[These] proceedings involve a matter of interpretation regarding multiple complaints ... The Supreme Court will eventually decide."

Bernas believes the minority's amended complaint, the original betrayal of public trust charge by lawyer Oliver Lozano, and another complaint by lawyer Jose Lopez can be tackled together since they both involve betrayal of public trust and were referred to the House committee on justice on the same day, July 25.

Corrections

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, the front-page banner story—"Gordon: No politics in Subic shake-up"—misstated the degree that SBMA Director Armand Arreza had obtained from Ateneo de Manila University. Arreza obtained a degree in BS Management Engineering—not Industrial Engineering.

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a story in the Business section on Page B3—"BOI call center launched"—the Board of Investments misstated the toll-free number of a call center that had been set up to make investing in the country easier. The correct toll-free number is 1-866-312-9830, not 1-866-312-3930.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses: glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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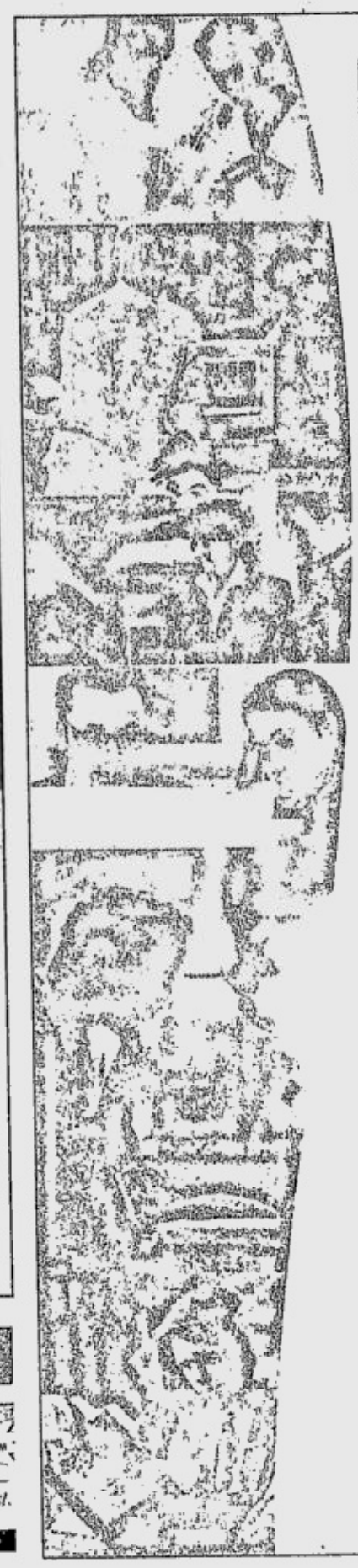

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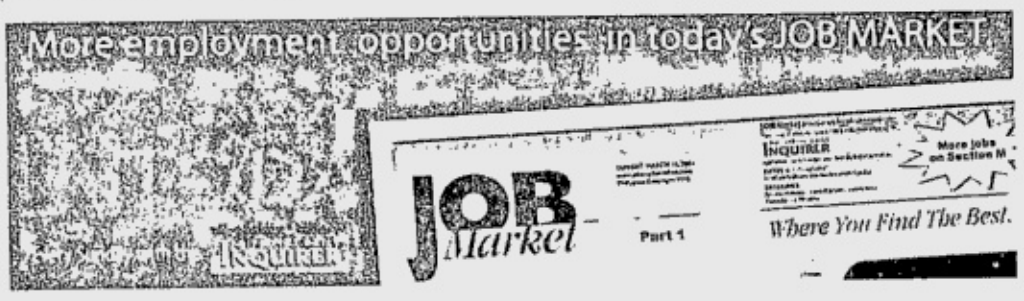

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MESSAGE TO CONGRESSMEN

FROM OVER 600 TOP INDEPENDENT WOMEN IN CIVIL SOCIETY:

1. WE PREFER GMA TO CHAOS
2. THE CONSTITUTION IS CLEAR: ONLY ONE IMPEACHMENT COMPLAINT IN ONE YEAR.

CONCERNED FILIPINOS' DECALOGUE - AUGUST 2005

WE LOVE OUR COUNTRY AND WE FIRMLY BELIEVE:

- THAT UNITED, WE CAN EARN THE ESTEEM OF THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS;
- THAT OUR GOVERNMENT CAN COME UP WITH A CITIZENRY THAT IS DECENTLY FED, CLOTHED, SHELTERED, AND SCHOOLED;
- THAT MEDIA--- OBJECTIVE BUT INSPIRING, CRITICAL YET ENCOURAGING---CAN BE CONSTRUCTIVE PARTNERS IN NATION-BUILDING, PROVIDING AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH FILIPINO TALENT WILL FLOURISH AND SERVE SOCIETY AT LARGE;
- THAT OUR PEOPLE, WITH THE ABOVE BASICS, CAN BECOME PRODUCTIVE, FULFILLED INDIVIDUALS, PROUD OF BEING FILIPINOS, CONTENT TO REMAIN IN THE LAND OF THEIR BIRTH;
- THAT PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO (PGMA) AS OUR DULY ELECTED PRESIDENT, WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT AND DUTY TO SERVE OUT HER TERM, CAN WITH GOD'S GRACE AND OUR HELP BRING ABOUT THE ABOVE SITUATION;
- THAT THE PRESENT UNSUBSTANTIATED CHARGES HURLED AGAINST PGMA WITH ILLEGALLY OBTAINED "EVIDENCE" PRESENTED BY PEOPLE OF QUESTIONABLE REPUTE ARE FLIMSY GROUNDS THAT CANNOT MERIT A DEMAND FOR HER RESIGNATION;
- THAT TO NEGATE THE DAMAGE DONE TO PGMA'S POSITION, THE ACCUSATIONS VS. PGMA UNDERGO A FAIR LEGAL PROCESS THAT CAN SERVE TO UNITE ALL FILIPINOS TOWARD NATIONHOOD;
- THAT THE PAINFUL POLITICAL SIEGE PGMA HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO CAN STRENGTHEN HER RESOLVE TO PURSUE REFORMS WITH GREATER DETERMINATION;
- THAT QUICK FIXES AND EXTRA-LEGAL POWER GRABS CAN NEVER OFFER ANY LASTING SOLUTIONS TO POLITICAL AND OTHER WOES;
- THAT WITH TIME AND SWEAT, TEARS AND PAIN, PATIENCE AND DETERMINATION, WE CAN WITH GOD'S HELP BRING ABOUT OUR REDEMPTION.

Signatures (Part I)

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Maria Teresa R. Alba
Maria Lourdes P. Varona
Isabel Caro Wilson
Menchu A. Geronimo
Sarah S. Anido
Esperanza Paterno
Franie Jacinto
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Alma Luz L. Pasiliao
Edita C. Buñag
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Energy secretary's pa still practices law at 92

By Jo Martinez-Clemente
PDI Visayas Bureau

SIBALOM, Antique—Perpetuo A. Lotilla Sr. has lived longer than most people. But far from being a relic, this 92-year-old is a practicing lawyer.

His hearing remains sharp and he can read well enough to go through documents and handle court cases, making him the country's oldest practicing lawyer.

"If you can't hear well, you can't practice anymore because the judge will scold you. He will keep on repeating what he said and he won't like that," a lean and healthy Lotilla said.

It was water that fueled his energy, according to his son Energy Secretary Raphael Perpetuo "Popo" M. Lotilla.

The older Lotilla once suffered from stomach acid caused by smoking cigarettes. He was advised to try water therapy to flush out the acid from his body and he did.

After that, he said cigarettes didn't taste as good anymore and he stopped smoking.

"Water therapy is helpful. It's a way to stay healthy and live longer," he said.

Lotilla was born on April 7, 1913. A product of the defunct Philippine Law School in Manila, he was admitted to the Bar in 1939, the same year "Ferdinand E. Marcos became a topnotcher."

He returned to Antique to practice law. Later, he ran and won as councilor of his town. In 1955, he became vice governor of his province.

After his term, he became municipal trial court judge in the capital town of San Jose for 17 years until his retirement.

Lotilla is grateful to be blessed with good health. He has never been admitted to a hospital for any major ailment since he was a child, he said.

Even today while most people his age are on a restricted diet or on maintenance medicine, Lotilla eats just about anything. He is not under any medication and goes about his daily activities including going to court in the capital town.

LOTILLA cites water therapy "to stay healthy and live longer."

Even his 76-year-old wife Lolita still goes to work as registrar of St. Anthony's College here.

Most of the cases he handles are "routine civil cases" and his memory has yet to fail him.

But when he's faced with a complicated case and he needs to do a little more, the grand old man of the Lotilla clan would consult any one of "his three topnotch lawyers"—eldest son Jose Perpetuo, who is with Sycip Salazar Hernandez and Gatmaitan Law Firm, Energy czar Rafael Perpetuo, himself a law professor and his youngest son, and Perpetuo Jr., law partner of former Sen. Raul Roco.

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High court to issue ruling on VAT legality this week

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME Court, expected to tackle the five petitions seeking to declare the Value-Added Tax Law unconstitutional when it holds its regular en banc session today, has assured the public it won't have to wait much longer for a decision.

The high tribunal's public affairs head Ishmael Khan Jr. said yesterday the SC was definitely set to issue the decision within the week or early next month.

"I think the court would still be able to come out with its decision on the case by the end of this month or early next month," Khan said in a recent interview with the INQUIRER.

Khan said there was delay in the resolution of the case—including whether it would lift the order temporarily restraining the administration from implementing the law—because the high court requested additional information from the Department of Finance, one of the respondents.

Five groups and individuals are seeking the nullification of the VAT Law, or Republic Act No. 9337.

Petitioners who asked for the junking of the law or its blocking with a TRO consist of members of the minority bloc of the Senate and House led by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Rep. Joseph Francis Escudero, various associations of petroleum dealers in the country, the Abakada Guro party-list group, and Batangas Gov. Enrique Garcia.

They questioned the constitutionality of the provision giving the President "stand-by authority" to increase the VAT rate to 12 percent in January, among others.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration, which has presented the VAT law as the centerpiece of economic reforms, claims that the government has been losing about P130 million a day since the implementation of VAT was suspended last July 1.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, August 30, 2005
22nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Thes 5:1-6,9-11
Gospel: Luke 4:31-37

Jesus went down to Capernaum, a town of Galilee, and began teaching the people at the sabbath meetings. They were astonished at the way he taught them, for his word was spoken with authority.

In the synagogue there was a man possessed by an evil spirit who shouted in a loud voice, "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I recognize you: you are the Holy One of God." Then Jesus said to him sharply, "Be silent and leave this man!" The evil spirit then threw the man down in front of them and came out of him without doing him harm.

Amazement seized all these people and they said to one another, "What does this mean? He commands the evil spirits with authority and power. He orders, and you see how they come out!" And news about Jesus spread throughout the surrounding area.

Commentary

Jesus begins preaching publicly in the synagogues and is confronted by a man who is possessed by an evil spirit—the traditional way of describing someone who was often not in control of their bodily functions (spasms, epilepsy, mental illness, etc. and in the same sense we'd talk about people addicted to drugs, alcohol, etc.) It seems those who are most damaged as human beings see clearly who Jesus is and he has power over all their ills and lacks. He commands with his word that the man be whole, so that the man can live without harm to himself or others. This is the work of Jesus: to preach the good news to the poor, to heal and restore people to their dignity and life as children of God, to teach with authority and to have power over everything in heaven and on earth. It begins in the synagogue and will spread out into the world. We have been restored to our dignity as children in our baptisms; now we are to share that holiness with others outside of our churches.

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THE NAIA Terminal 3. PDI PHOTO

Manila Hotel seeks permit to run Naia 3

From page A1

The government and the Supreme Court canceled the already completed project in 2003, accusing Piatco, a consortium that includes the German airport operator Fraport AG, of conspiring with corrupt government officials to limit the government's share of revenue from the terminal.

To pave the way for the opening of the terminal, Manila Hotel will ask the administration "to reconsider" its decision last December to take over Naia 3.

"There is the budget deficit. We want to help the government reduce this deficit by minimizing its burden of incurring more loans and paying additional interest," Lina said.

When it seized the facility, the Arroyo administration promised to open the world-class terminal in June. The timetable was moved to before Christmas but now nobody can say exactly when it would open.

An understanding with Japanese firm Takenaka Corp. to tie up loose ends in Naia 3 was supposed to have been clinched in June but up to now has not been signed.

The new terminal was built to replace Naia 1, which is more than 20 years old. Naia 3 is designed to handle 28 aircraft at once and 13 million passengers a year.

As far as Manila Hotel is concerned, Lina said the company was "working and cooperating with all other stakeholders" to start operating the terminal.

Foreign loans

Manila Hotel is now the majority owner of Piatco after buying the equity of all foreign shareholders. As a result, Piatco is now a 60-40 venture between Manila Hotel and the Cheng family.

"We bought 30 percent of Fraport's direct equity, another 20 percent of the two other foreign shareholders, plus the stake of Fraport in all other companies that own Piatco," said Lina, a former senator and interior secretary.

Manila Hotel Corp. signed an agreement with Fraport, which is 70-percent owned by the German government, on Aug. 26 to purchase the latter's entire equity in Piatco for $200 million.

Lina said that about a week or two ago, a similar deal was forged with SB Airport Investment Corp. and Japan's Sojitz for their combined 20-percent stake for $30 million. SB Investment, according to sources, has links to Security Banking Corp.

Negotiations with SB Investment and Sojitz had been going on since December 2004, Lina said.

"As for Fraport, there were talks before but it was only recently that a deal was finally struck," he said.

Manila Hotel, he said, would tap foreign loans to finance the purchase of Fraport AG's more than 60-percent equity and the 20-percent stake of SB Airport Investment Corp. and Sojitz Corp.

The company does not anticipate problems with any stakeholder of Naia 3, Lina said.

"The agreement we signed with Fraport and other foreign shareholders is that they will withdraw their claims and the cases against the Philippine government upon the conclusion of the acquisition," he said.

Sources said the administration could eventually assign to Piatco the right to operate Naia 3, considering that the government does not have the money to buy out the private investors.

Arbitration

Piatco is asking an arbitration court in Singapore to order the Philippine government to compensate the company $525 million for its investment in Naia 3.

For its part, Fraport filed a $425-million compensation claim against the government in September 2003 with a World Bank arbitration panel in Washington. It also sued the government for $900 million.

The German firm said it had a total 61.44-percent stake in Piatco through a 30-percent direct ownership and the rest, indirectly, through what it called "cascade companies" that had an interest in Piatco.

Fraport's indirect investments were made through its direct equity in three of the four Filipino companies controlling a 60-percent stake.

Aside from Fraport, the significant owners of Piatco are the Cheng family, Japan's Nissho Iwai and SB Airport. Sources said Nissho Iwai must have sold its 10-percent stake in Piatco to Sojitz which, in turn, sold it to Manila Hotel.

Fraport had been disgusted with the Philippines after its investment in Naia 3 soured. The German firm described the government takeover as "another in a series of unlawful acts by the Philippines."

Not a front

Manila Hotel said it was not fronting for anybody. "This is entirely for our own account," Lina said.

There were speculations the group bought into Piatco to help the government end the impasse in Naia 3. Manila Hotel is partly owned by the Government Service Insurance System.

Yet some quarters suspected the company of Yap, chair of Manila Bulletin, could be fronting for the Lucio Tan Group after the two Chinese tycoons seem to have recently settled their differences.

Tan, who owns Philippine Airlines, had been wanting to take control of Piatco, according to sources.

He was one of the six Chinese-Filipino businessmen who put up Asia's Emerging Dragon Corp., which submitted an unsolicited proposal to the Aquino administration to put up Naia 3.

Tan now controls AEDC, according to sources.

"We want the project for our own investment. We would not have gone into it if we did not believe in the project," Lina said.

PCASO

PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF ARRASTRE AND STEVEDORING OPERATORS

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNANCE
OF
PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

We the officers and members of the Philippine Chamber of Arrastre and Stevedoring Operators together with all our members from all ports within Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, our employees and families are united in stating that:

Amidst the current political events that are daily unfolding in our society are the silent majority, like us, whose daily concern is to survive. The average Filipino whose daily goal is to provide for his family's current and future needs.

We at the waterfront want a stable government and a stable economy that will ensure our family's survival through the continuous development of our industry. We believe that a strong government; a strong republic that will espouse fair trade, ensure sustainable development, and create sound policies will encourage everyone concerned to join this strong government with a common goal to progress.

We believe in the ideals of a strong government and we embrace its challenges and share its burdens in the name of building country that will provide the next generation a better future, a better chance at life.

We therefore support the government by contributing to establish a strong industry through the improvement of our service efficiency to our port users; training and improving the lives of our employees; and promoting a market driven modernization program that is realistic and attuned with the world.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's administration has unceasingly laid the groundwork for the development of our industry. We vigorously affirm that, in the light of current events, our nation's best option is to insist that PGMA remain and continue to implement her economic agenda. This option will deftly shield our battered economy and maintain its much-needed stability

Be it as it may that all sectors and parties that divide the nation are given the freedom and right to fully express themselves, so do we, the average men and women of the waterfront as a reflection of our beliefs and heartfelt sentiment.

Taking a parallel view of the president's statements that the Philippines may well be in a constant state of being on the verge of take off, we want our country to finally take off that it may reach new heights and together with it our dreams of a brighter future for our families through our industry.

Signed this day of August 24, 2005

BENJAMIN C. AKOL
Chairman
Oroport – Port of Cagayan de Oro

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

2 cops prove there are still heroes

From page A1

The two policemen were doing their rounds near the Navotas Fish Port Complex when they learned at around 8 a.m. that a robbery was taking place inside.

On board a motorcycle, they sped toward Gate 2 of the fish port and saw Jojo Gregorio, 24, fleeing with a bag.

Money in belt bag

Police said that some 10 minutes earlier, Gregorio and two other men, identified as John John Tabio and an "Anton," allegedly held up businessman Arnel Camua as he was boarding a private jeep.

Camua, in his 40s, was carrying some P539,000 in cash and P649,000 in checks in a belt bag. His in-law, Ricardo, said Camua was going to deposit the money in a bank.

Police said Camua might have tried to fight off the robbers because they stabbed him in the neck and back.

Camua was declared dead at the Tondo General Hospital.

Police have launched a manhunt for the two other robbers.

A rookie cop

Ibrahim, a policeman for three years, and Calibuso, a rookie, said taking the money or a part of it never crossed their minds.

"I'm a Muslim, and it's against the law," Ibrahim told the INQUIRER.

"I wouldn't think of that," said Calibuso. "I just want to do my job the best way I know it."

To make sure everything was transparent, the two lawmen opened the bag filled with money only at police headquarters so everybody could see.

They also recovered two knives from the crime scene.

Gonzales said he would recommend awards for the two policemen.

Modern-day heroes

At Sunday's ceremony at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga lamented that people who thought of nothing but themselves were the ones heard or written about in the media.

"I see greed, I see indifference. I see apathy. It's the heroes I do not see," he said. Yet, if one only looks in the right places, one would find heroes, he added.

"They include," he said, "a policeman who refuses to accept a bribe [or ask for one], and performs his job despite the dangers and temptations involved."

Navotas police chief Supt. Genesis Tolejano said of Ibrahim and Calibuso: "[They] are the best examples that there are still more good cops than bad ones."

Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco commended the two policemen.

HOLIDAY BLUES

Malacañang flip-flop sows confusion, irks employers

By Jerome Aning, Christine O. Avendaño
in Manila
and Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

EMPLOYERS scored Malacañang's late announcement declaring yesterday a public holiday, saying it only created confusion among private office workers.

Rene Soriano, president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, said many employees in the private sector thought they were covered by the proclamation.

The militant labor group Kilusang Mayo Uno, however, claimed that the Monday declaration was politically motivated, a ploy to delay the progress of the impeachment movement against the President.

"Malacañang is taking full advantage of the President's prerogative to declare any day a public holiday to delay the impeachment proceedings and congressional hearings on the 'Hello Garci' tapes. Though some workers received 200 percent of their daily rate, we're not at all pleased with the government's political maneuverings," said KMU secretary general Joel Maglunsod.

Soriano said employers were confused by the belated announcement since many private office workers who reported for work last Sunday were given double pay.

Also confusing was the fact that since only classes and work in government offices were suspended, private employees who reported for duty would only receive regular pay even if yesterday was declared a holiday.

Malacañang originally declared Aug. 28, Sunday, a national holiday while the Department of Labor and Employment issued its own reminder about holiday pays for those who would report for duty on that day.

Employers and employees calling DOLE's hotline 527-8000 last Friday were also told that there would be work on Monday.

Malacañang, however, reversed its decision late Saturday and declared Monday a holiday, although it excluded the private sector so as not to disrupt operations, particularly in the manufacturing sector.

Soriano said the government should issue announcements on special holidays early to avoid confusion in the labor and employment sectors.

Yesterday, Malacañang assured ECOP that it would try to declare all the holidays in advance to avoid confusion.

"We will try to comply with [ECOP's] request as much as possible," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

"I believe certain flexibilities will have to be allowed," Bunye also said, in reply to the question of whether the Palace would announce what days were considered holidays at the start of the New Year. "We don't want to paint ourselves into a corner."

Bunye said the "schedules" of holidays "were generally guides but again I believe any announcement will have to be made in advance as much as possible."

He acknowledged that it was the President who declares which day was a holiday and that this was implemented by a proclamation signed by the Executive Secretary.

In Cebu City, businessmen were also not happy with Malacañang's sudden decision to declare Aug. 29 a public holiday in observance of National Heroes' Day.

Robert Go, Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry president, said their schedule was affected even if the special nonworking holiday applied only to the public sector and classes at all levels.

He said some businesses had incurred losses in terms of time and efficiency because they had to reset their transactions with concerned government agencies while adjusting their calendar to accommodate the new schedules.

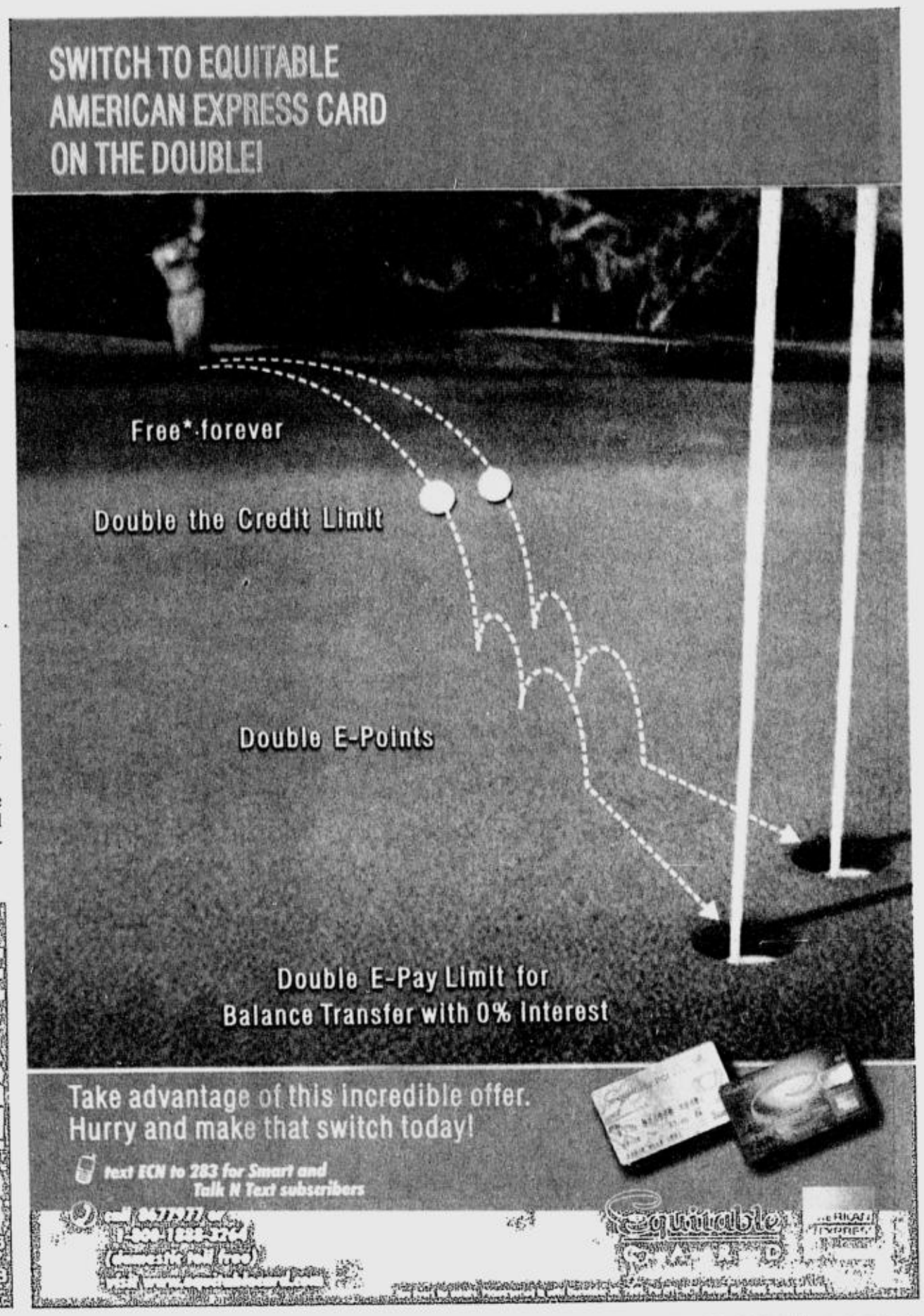
Go said that if the regular holiday falls on a Sunday, the next day should not be declared a holiday, as the country already had so many holidays, regular and special holidays.

Too many holidays, he added, would not be good for the business sector because it could affect the productivity and efficiency of companies.

Go said the chamber would write to Malacañang endorsing the proposal of the foreign chambers of commerce to schedule the holidays six months in advance.

Five foreign chambers of commerce earlier lambasted Malacañang's penchant for declaring "surprise holidays" which, they said, interfered with companies' production schedules.

Under the Arroyo administration's policy of holiday economics, holidays that fall on weekends are moved to either Friday or Monday, thus extending the weekend to three days.



Goodbye Paris, hello Seoul

THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism has closed its office in Paris and opened a new one in Seoul, South Korea.

The new DOT office, to be headed by an attaché, opens on Sept. 15 at the President's Hotel, located in the commercial center of Seoul.

The Paris office was closed last May and its budget and key personnel would be used for the upkeep of the Seoul office, according to Undersecretary for Tourism Planning and Promotions Eduardo Jarque Jr.

The DOT tourism office in Seoul would maintain the Philippines' strong presence and accommodate the growing number of inquiries among outbound travelers, according to Secretary Joseph Ace Durano.

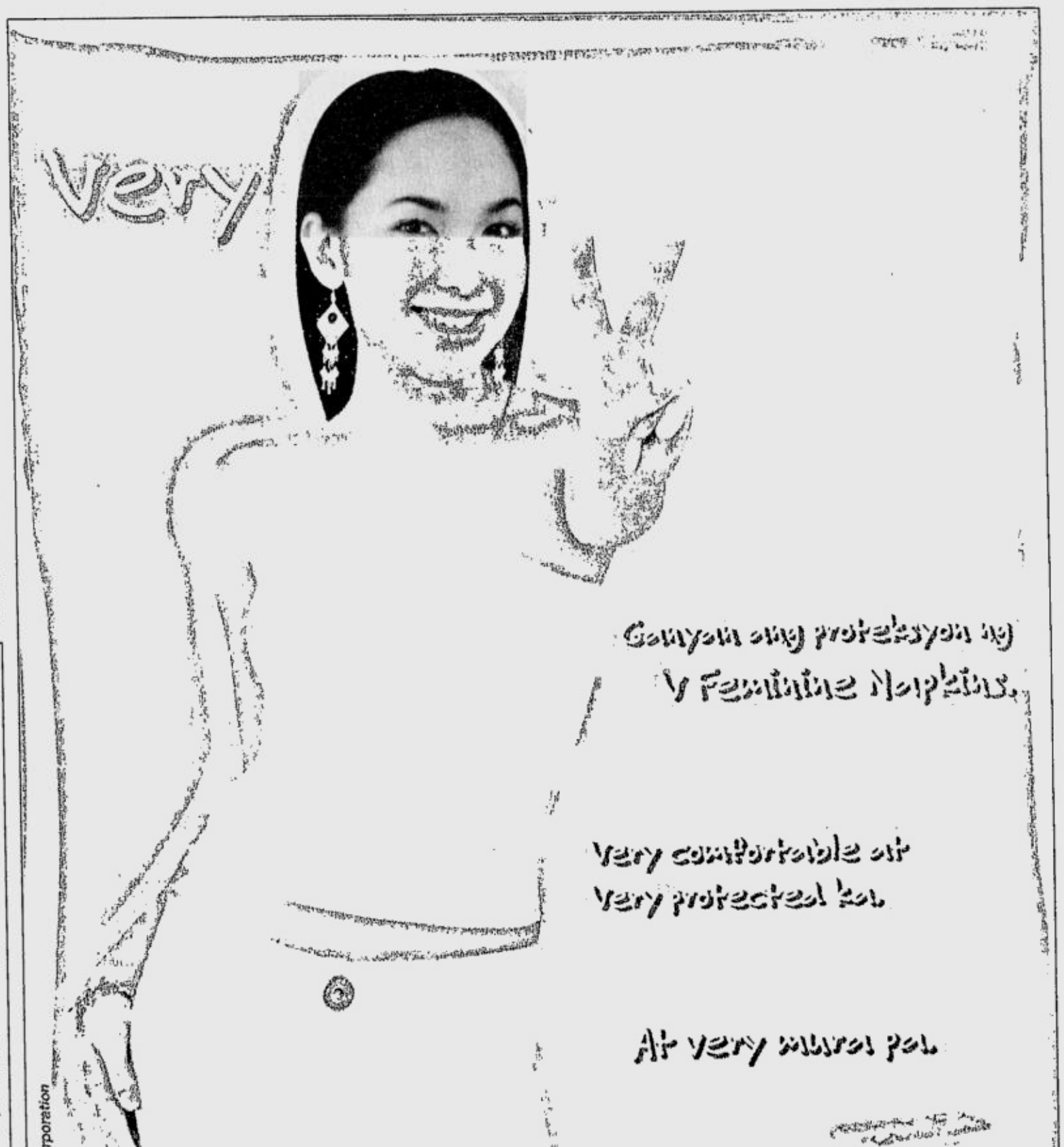
Latest surveys showed that the Philippines has overtaken Thailand as the second most preferred Southeast Asian destination among Korean tourists.

The Philippines also emerged fifth among the Koreans' top travel destination in the world, according to the DOT.

For the month of June, Korean arrivals registered a 45 percent growth rate compared to the same period last year, Durano said.

He added that DOT expects a sustained growth rate in September and October, the wedding season in Korea, when there would be hundreds of honeymooners traveling abroad.

DOT is promoting the country in Korea through the slogan "More than the Usual Warmth ... Feel the Philippines." *Jerome Aning*



FLEEING KATRINA. Residents and tourists flee New Orleans, Louisiana, to escape the fury of Hurricane Katrina barreling toward the US gulf coast city. REUTERS

Economy grows 4.8%

From page A1

The economy, which imports virtually all of its oil, needs to grow by nearly 6 percent amid higher raw material prices and weak demand for the rest of the year to attain the full-year target of 5.3 percent. This target is below the 2004 GDP growth of 6.1 percent.

Record oil prices

Oil prices hit new record highs after crossing $70 a barrel in Asian trading hours on Monday as a powerful hurricane threatened the crude-producing Gulf of Mexico region in the United States.

Higher international crude prices will have a wider, negative impact, analysts warned.

"The remainder of the year is going to be very tough," said Victor Abola, senior economist of the Manila-based University of Asia and the Pacific.

The country's full-year GDP growth forecast rested on Dubai crude prices averaging $48.95 a barrel over the year. Dubai crude, used by Filipino refineries, is now trading above $56 a barrel.

The Development Budget Coordination Committee originally targeted GDP growth of 5.3 to 6.3 percent for 2005.

It changed the target to the low-end of the original forecast following the spike in oil prices, which softened demand for the country's exports and reduced consumer spending.

Production by the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors declined sharply in the second quarter to only 1.8 percent from 4.2 percent the previous year, according to the NSCB.

Agriculture accounts for 20 percent of the total output of the economy.

"The main drag in the agriculture output was really El Niño. But we expect a recovery in the second half," said Dennis Arroyo, director of the National Economic and Development Authority.

Industry and services also slowed down.

The industry sector, which covers manufacturing, mining and construction, among others, grew 4.6 percent compared to the 5.3 percent recorded last year.

Services, which includes trade, finance, transportation and communication, recorded a decelerated growth of 6.1 percent from the previous year's 8.1 percent.

Personal consumption, which accounts for 70 percent of the domestic economy, grew by a slower 4.9 percent in the three months to June and 4.9 percent in the first half, compared with 6.3 and 6.0 percent, respectively, last year.

Political turmoil

More than the external factors of El Niño and increasing price of oil, the slowdown in the economy's growth has to do largely with internal problems, particularly the political turmoil, according to Ernesto Pernia, a professor at the University of the Philippines School of Economics.

"Attributing the decline in GDP growth only to high oil prices and the weather problem is an inaccurate assessment because El Niño was not that bad," Pernia said in an interview.

"Internal political disturbance has played an important part. Investments are always affected every time there is uncertainty," he said.

Instead of blaming the weather, the government should look at how politics has consumed much of the time and effort of its officials, Pernia said.

"The economy is directionless at this time. The government is not able to sufficiently attend to the fiscal crisis, investment climate, and power and population problems," he lamented.

Pernia said the 5.3-percent GDP growth target for the year was too optimistic. He said the best the economy could post for the full year would be 4.7 percent, or the same as the first-half average.

Doing fine

But Neda Director General Augusto Santos said the economy was doing just fine, and that it was still on track to meet the full-year target.

"[O]ur projected full-year growth forecast of 5.3 percent is still within our grasp, even as we are mindful of the challenges being exerted by the continuing rise in the price of crude oil in the global market," he said.

Santos said the bright spots were in the mining and manufacturing sectors, as well as financial services.

An economist with a Singaporean group agreed with Santos.

"Rising oil prices could be a risk to growth but the strength of domestic demand should continue to support the economy," said Singapore-based CIMB-GK Research regional economist Song Seng Wun, citing the remittances of Filipinos abroad which he said should exceed $10 billion this year.

Neda also expects remittances from overseas Filipino workers this year to remain strong.

Bigger remittances

Arroyo, director of Neda's policy and planning staff, said OFW remittances for 2005 could reach $10 billion by the end of the year, better than the government's original forecast of $9.4 billion.

Neda said the net factor income, which includes remittances by OFWs, was seen to grow in the second semester as the deployment of Filipino caregivers in various countries continued to grow.

But it acknowledged that the economy's ability to meet the 5.3-percent growth target would largely hinge on the recovery of the agriculture sector.

Simulation by Neda showed that to meet the target, agriculture should grow by 5.9 percent year-on-year in the second semester.

With the weather problem expected to ease in the second half, Neda said a 5.9-percent growth in farm output was achievable.

Neda said the 5.3-percent GDP growth target was still realistic even if oil prices continued to soar in the second semester.

Arroyo said the target already assumed that Dubai crude would hit $60 per barrel. As of Friday, he said, Dubai crude was at $56 per barrel.

High oil prices affect economic growth because they tend to restrict spending for other goods and services.

Weak exports

Aside from increasing oil prices, weakening of exports is another factor expected to affect the economy's ability to attain its full-year growth target. Export earnings in the second quarter grew 1.1 percent compared with the 16.1 percent recorded in the same period last year.

The slowdown in exports was attributed to the weakening demand for electronics, which accounts for over 60 percent of the country's export earnings. This prompted Neda to urge the private sector to diversify exports so that earnings would not rely heavily on electronics.

Imports, many of them raw material inputs for the manufacturing sector, dropped 0.9 percent in the first half, with dire implications for second half production. *With a report from AFP*

Oil firms earn billions of pesos amid crisis

From page A1

and Petron Corp. raked in a combined P11.6 billion in after-tax profits in the previous 18 months, enjoying what he described as their "massive pricing power" due to soaring oil prices.

Citing financial statements filed by the two oil firms with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Santiago said Shell and Petron posted P2.87 billion and P2.31 billion, respectively, in net profits from January to June this year, or a combined P5.18 billion.

In 2004, Shell and Petron posted net profits of P2.98 billion and P3.43 billion, respectively, or a total of P6.41 billion, the Catanduanes lawmaker said in a press statement.

Over the weekend, local oil firms jacked up the prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by an additional 50 centavos a liter. Since the start of the year, gasoline and diesel prices had increased 16 times by a total of P8.35 and P8.05 a liter, respectively.

Premium unleaded gasoline now retails at between P33.05 and P34.19 a liter, diesel at between P29.79 and P31.45 a liter and kerosene at between P30.94 and P32.50 a liter.

Even so, officials of Petron and Pilipinas Shell said the high net earnings posted by their companies were not entirely due to bigger profit margins in the local market.

Petron attributed its strong earnings to the lucrative export market, while Pilipinas Shell cited bigger contributions of its other businesses other than domestic fuel retailing.

According to records obtained by Santiago's office from the Securities and Exchange Commission, Shell's P2.87 billion net profit in the last six months nearly matched the P2.98 billion it raked in for the whole of 2004. The P2.97 billion in dividends that it distributed to its shareholders for the first half of the year had already surpassed the P2.59 billion it distributed in 2004.

Santiago said Shell doled out P5.56 billion in dividends during the previous 18 months. Petron, for its part, paid P2.9 billion in dividends to its shareholders over the same period—P1.88 billion last year plus P938 million this year.

"The two refiners are obviously benefiting immensely from the surge in crude oil prices, which has given them tremendous pricing power," Santiago said in his press statement.

The lawmaker, however, made it clear he had nothing against the two companies making money.

"We are not out to judge the two oil firms. It is not a crime to make a profit in this country," Santiago said. "We are simply disclosing these figures in the interest of public scrutiny and transparency. We are leaving it to the people—to the consumers—to judge for themselves."

Explanation

Reacting to Santiago's disclosure, Petron said its exports in the first semester grew 18 percent to 2.26 million barrels from 1.92 million in the same period last year.

In cash terms, exports grew by P440 million in the first half, boosting its contribution to total January-June profit to 35 percent from 27 percent the year before.

According to Petron, however, domestic sales volume registered a 9-percent decline in the first semester to only 22.88 million barrels due to weak demand. Last year, export revenues accounted for 40 percent of the company's P3.4 billion net income.

Roberto Kanapi, Shell general manager for external affairs, acknowledged that his company has been doing well this year.

"Indeed we have positive margins for the first half, which can be attributed to several factors, including better refining margins, strong exports and a profitable nonfuel retailing business," he said.

Shell's nonfuel retailing revenues are derived from its Select convenience stores, as well as from fees from concessionaires in its expressway-based service stations.

Global Pump Prices of Gasoline

(As of Aug. 16 to 29, 2005, in pesos per liter)

1	Finland	136.80
2	Norway	98.61
3	Netherlands	97.75
4	Turkey	95.76
5	UK	92.27
6	Hong Kong	92.01
7	Belgium	91.10
8	Germany	89.33
9	Sweden	87.84
10	Italy	87.40
11	France	84.74
12	Ireland	75.24
13	Portugal	71.82
14	Switzerland	71.44
15	Japan	65.64
16	New Zealand	60.08
17	Singapore	59.03
18	Australia	55.35
19	Cambodia	48.76
20	Canada	47.59
21	21 Taiwan	44.20
22	Lebanon	42.00
23	US	41.41
24	Philippines	39.98
25	Thailand	35.81
26	Vietnam	34.00
27	Mexico	32.40
28	Panama	32.39
29	Malaysia	24.02
30	Nigeria	22.68
31	UAE	18.75
32	Indonesia	13.20
33	Kuwait	10.06
34	Egypt	8.73
35	Venezuela	1.96

SOURCES: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, EMBASSIES OF FINLAND, NORWAY, UK, PORTUGAL, JAPAN, LEBANON, MALAYSIA, THAILAND, PANAMA, UAE, INDONESIA, NIGERIA, MEXICO, TURKEY, VENEZUELA, SWITZERLAND, TAIPEI ECONOMIC & CULTURAL OFFICE IN THE PHILIPPINES, US ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION, WWW.GUARDIAN.CO.UK, WWW.EPPO.GO.TH, WWW.ESCM.GO.ID, WWW.CNN.COM

CONVERSIONS USED: $1 = P56.05, CDN$ = P46.70, EURO = P68.40, NORWAY KRONER = P8.56, SWEDEN KRONER = P7.32, YEN = P0.51; INDONESIA RUPIA = P0.0055, MALAYSIA RINGGIT = P14.83, TAIWAN $ = P1.74, THAILAND BAHT = P1.37, NIGERIA NAIRAS = P0.42

COMPILED BY PDI RESEARCH

World price hits $70 a barrel; Asia nervous

From page A1

sessing the impact of surging crude costs caused in part by the region's own insatiable demand for energy.

Alex Aguilar, spokesperson of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, warned of a possible reprise of the first oil crisis in the 1970s when many Philippine companies were forced to lay off thousands of workers and shut down factories.

Asia-Pacific stock markets tumbled as the cost of crude reached a level widely seen as the tipping point at which oil costs would begin eroding economic growth, weaken currencies, fuel inflation and force interest rate hikes.

The stock market in Jakarta plummeted by a massive 5.16 percent, Seoul by 2.15 percent, Tokyo by 1.04 percent, Sydney by 1.25 percent and Taipei by 1.42 percent.

Given the market's recent historical highs and the prospect that oil at current levels would eat into profits alongside consumer demand, investors were cashing up or switching to the bond market, according to dealers.

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin could have been speaking for Asia when he said "we are facing the storm that most of us have feared," as Hurricane Katrina with winds of 257 kph barreled toward the heart of US oil and refinery operations in the Gulf of Mexico, shutting down an estimated 1 million barrels of refining capacity.

Crude oil futures briefly surged past $70 a barrel for the first time Monday as the Category 4 storm advanced on an area crucial to the US energy infrastructure—offshore oil and gas production, import terminals, pipeline networks and numerous refining operations in the southern states of Louisiana and Mississippi. *(See related story in The World, Page A12.)*

"This is the big one," said Peter Beutel, an oil analyst with Cameron Hanover. "This is unmitigated, bad news for consumers."

Light sweet crude for October delivery on the New York Mercantile Exchange jumped as much as $4.67 a barrel in Singapore to hit a high of $70.80 a barrel before slipping to $68.95 by midday in Europe. That was still up $2.082 from its close on Friday in New York.

Katrina has already forced the shutdown of an estimated 1 million barrels of refining capacity and curbing offshore production, but analysts said the storm's potential damage to facilities was even more worrying.

"It's not only the suspension of production that's causing concern, it's the fact that we could see potential damage to the platforms, which would cause longer disruptions to production," said energy analyst Victor Shum of Texas-headquartered Purvin & Gertz in Singapore.

The Gulf of Mexico normally produces 1.5 million barrels of crude oil a day, or about a quarter of the US domestic output, according to the US Mineral Management Service.

Perfect storm

"It looks like the perfect storm to drive prices up," Shum said.

Unlike last year's Hurricane Ivan, which only hit the edge of the oil and natural gas producing areas in the central Gulf of Mexico, Katrina is plowing right through the heart of that region.

"If this thing knocks out significant quantities of refining capacity ... we're going to be in deep, dark trouble," said Ed Silliere, vic president of risk management at Energy Merchant LLC in New York.

PVM Oil Associates in Vienna, Austria, said Katrina had the potential to do more damage to southeastern Louisiana than Ivan, which damaged seven platforms, 100 underwater pipelines and shut down production at some facilities for several months.

Some analysts have said the only way to rein in surging prices would be for the United States to tap some of its petroleum reserves.

"President Bush could announce a release of supply from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve," said commodity strategist David Thurtell of Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Sydney. "(That's) the only thing that will prevent further significant price rises from here."

Uncertainty

The Bush administration has said the petroleum reserves should be tapped only when there are disruptions of oil imports from overseas.

Oil companies evacuated workers and shut down more than 600,000 barrels of daily production in the Gulf.

While Asian oil producers like Malaysia and Brunei are reaping a windfall and Singapore's oil rig manufacturing industry is being buoyed by rising orders from exploration companies, the overall sentiment was one of uncertainty.

"It does represent the biggest cloud on the economic outlook which otherwise remains bright," David Cohen, a Singapore-based analyst with research firm Action Economics, said of the runaway oil prices.

Cohen and other economists were still hopeful that continued growth in the United States and China, the most crucial export markets for many Asian economies, would mitigate the impact of higher oil prices.

John Koldowski, managing director of the Strategic Intelligence Center at the Pacific Asia Travel Association in Bangkok, said the travel industry was taking "a long hard look" at what was going on in the oil sector.

Analysts had dismissed speculation of world crude prices hitting $100 a few months back but "we're really now starting to take it seriously," he said.

"It's a whole new ball game for us. We're now talking about prolonged levels of relatively high oil prices," Koldowski said.

Leisure travel may be curtailed, he said. "The way people travel and move around could very well change so that instead of taking a holiday three times a year it could be two times a year. Instead of taking business class, they could take extended economy fares."

The impact of higher crude prices was all too real for ordinary people who could never even dream of playing the stock market or traveling overseas.

In Indonesia, the rupiah fell below the psychological 10,500 level against the US dollar and President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono was under growing pressure to lift subsidies on domestic pump prices, a politically explosive issue.

Indonesia is a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries but is a net oil importer because it is unable to meet domestic demand.

Subsidized local oil prices are wreaking havoc on Indonesia's public finances and putting pressure on the rupiah but ending subsidies could trigger street protests. *Reports from AFP and AP*

PILOT CLASSES

Madrasah now in Metro schools

By Alcuin Papa

FOR THE first time, the Department of Education is offering the Madrasah curriculum in select public elementary schools in Metro Manila.

The curriculum, the DepEd said, would be implemented in Grades 1 and 2, affecting 50 classes or 1,800 Muslim students in public schools around Metro Manila.

Included in the Madrasah curriculum are lessons in Arabic Language and Islamic values in addition to regular subjects of English, Math, Science, Filipino and Makabayan.

The subjects will be taught by 51 Muslim *asatidz* (teachers) who recently completed a 22-day, live-in training program.

The offering of the Madrasah curriculum is mandated by DepEd Order No. 51 issued under former Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus, which highlighted Madrasah education as a vital component of the education system.

"The Madrasah will enhance national unity. With this in the curriculum, the Muslim people will no longer feel alienated," said DepEd Muslim Affairs undersecretary Manaros Boransing.

He also noted that Muslims were no longer confined to the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and had made their presence felt in Metro Manila and other parts of the country.

The pilot schools are located in Manila, Taguig, Pasay, Parañaque and Quezon City, where large Muslim communities reside.

The implementation of the Madrasah curriculum was launched on Aug. 27 at the Geronimo Santos Elementary School in San Miguel, Manila, where 60 percent of the student population are Muslim.

The DepEd said it hopes to reach a total of 1,752 Muslim students in 51 classes.

DepEd Order No. 51 also stipulates subjects for private Madrasah schools, mostly in the ARMM. The curriculum in these schools offers English, Math, Science, Pilipino and Makabayan.

There are also subjects on the Arabic language, the Koran and an expansion of the Islamic Values including lessons in Aqueeda and Figh, Seraah and Hadith.

First 'Maids' summit set

By Volt Contreras

FOR THIS alone, she deserves extra days off.

The government and various labor groups will hold a three-day conference on the plight of the Pinay household help, hoping to come up with more measures to protect one of the most vulnerable workers in the service sector.

The first National Domestic Workers Summit will be held in Marikina City from Sept. 21 to 23, with President Macapagal-Arroyo expected as guest of honor.

The summit will cover the concerns of both those employed locally and overseas, according to Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo.

Much of the discussion, however, will dwell on the countless sob stories of abused Filipino domestic helpers abroad that swamp the DFA through the Philippine embassies and consulates.

Seldom organized and often undocumented, Pinay "DH" or domestic helpers comprise a major segment of the country's exported manpower. A 2002 report of the International Labor Organization found that they covered 22 percent or almost a quarter of Filipinos hired abroad that year.

Romulo said "demand for Filipino domestic workers has been sustained over the years, so much so that the future composition of domestic workers is expected to remain significant."

"Our domestic workers, through their leaders and advocates, call for more responsive national policies and programs. The National Summit serves as a vehicle that will harmonize all opinions and elicit realistic recommendations and plans from the government, workers and other social partners," he said in a statement.

ROMULO: Discussions to focus on the plight of abused Filipino domestic helpers abroad.

Gov't to set up new body to combat illegal recruitment

THE DEPARTMENTS of Labor and Justice will set up a new task force to combat illegal recruitment and human trafficking, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said yesterday.

Sto. Tomas said the new body will take over the duties of the controversial Presidential Anti-Illegal Recruitment Task Force whose mandate expired on July 9 and was not renewed by Malacañang.

"This bigger, inter-agency task force will monitor cases of human trafficking from beginning to end, ensuring that those caught would be prosecuted and punished appropriately," Sto. Tomas told reporters.

The new body would include DOLE's attached agencies such as Philippine Overseas Employment Agency and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and the various labor offices, DOJ's Bureau of Immigration, as well as police, airport and maritime authorities.

PAIRTF chief Reynaldo Jaylo, who remains a POEA director, would be tasked to pursue pending cases against illegal recruiters.

Sources at the department, however, said the recruiters had demanded the abolition of the agency following its involvement in some questionable raids and arrests. *Jerome Aning*

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2005

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Million Americans flee giant hurricane

NEW ORLEANS—Gusty winds and heavy rain squalls swept across southern Louisiana on Monday as giant Hurricane Katrina bore down on the US Gulf coast and threatened to swamp the city of New Orleans.

At least a million people had fled the area ahead of the powerful storm, which weakened as it neared land to top winds of 248 kph and was downgraded to a Category 4 storm on the five-step Saffir-Simpson scale.

As of 3 a.m. EDT (3 p.m. in Manila), the center of the storm was 208 km south-southeast of New Orleans, the National Hurricane Center in Miami reported.

It said gusts as high as 120 kph had been recorded at Grand Isle on the Louisiana coast. In New Orleans, gusts had reached 96 kph.

Weather experts issued dire predictions for the fate of New Orleans, saying that thousands of homes could be damaged or destroyed and a million people left homeless by a storm surge forecast to be as high as 8.5 meters above normal.

As Katrina plowed through the Gulf of Mexico, oil companies shut down production from many of the offshore platforms that provide a quarter of US oil and gas production.

At least 42 percent of daily Gulf oil production, 20 percent of daily Gulf natural gas output and 8.5 percent of national refining capacity was shut on Sunday, producers and refiners said.

US oil futures jumped nearly $5 a barrel in opening trade to touch a peak of $70.80. Gasoline soared by 12 percent to a record high of $2.16 a gallon.

Even into Monday morning, Louisiana highways were thick with traffic as evacuees sought safety as far away as Texas, 425 km to the west.

"Please Pray for New Orleans" read a giant handpainted sign, appearing to sum up the fears that had seized the city known as the Big Easy for its relaxed life and party atmosphere.

New Orleans is nearly surrounded by water, including Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi, and about 70 percent of it lies below sea level, protected only by a series of levees.

Mayor Ray Nagin, who ordered a mandatory evacuation, warned the predicted storm surge could push water over the levees and flood the city, including its historic French Quarter.

That, said Cray Bruce as he fled in his car toward Texas, was what convinced him to leave.

"The only thing I was worried about was the water. We don't worry about no wind," said Bruce as he stopped for gas in Crowley, Louisiana, 260 km west of New Orleans.

In Baton Rouge, officials said three people from a New Orleans nursing home had died during their evacuation to a Baton Rouge church. They said they were among nearly two dozen people from the home who were on a bus stuck in traffic for hours during the 125 km trip. *Reuters*

TERROR BREEDS TERROR

Beslan hostage-takers' parents tell their story

By Sebastian Smith

ENGENOI, Russia—From his cottage high in the Chechen hills, the father of the sole surviving Beslan hostage-taker reflects on the cruelty of war.

Aburkash Kulayev, 70, says he is sorry about the suffering inflicted on more than 1,100 hostages last year by a band that included two of his sons—Khanpashi who was killed, and Nurpashi who lived and is now on trial.

He is sorry that more than half of the 318 hostages killed in the mayhem during the Sept. 3 battle between militants and Russian rescuers were children.

"The mothers received a terrible blow. The children went out and never came back," Kulayev said at his home in the village of Engenoi, in the steep foothills of the Caucasus mountains. "It's cruel. Of course we feel their pain."

But Kulayev, wearing threadbare clothes and sitting on the edge of a creaky wooden bed, refused to apologize or condemn.

"Whatever happened happened. In Chechnya, thousands of children have died," he said, sighing into his thick white beard. "War above all destroys the weak and helpless."

After two wars with Russia in the last decade, the Kulayevs, like almost every Chechen family, know about loss.

When then Russian President Boris Yeltsin sent in troops in 1994, Khanpashi was just 14, but immediately joined the rebels.

"It was about defending your family, land and faith," Kulayev said. When the independence movement drove out the Russians in 1996, the separatist government decorated Khanpashi for bravery.

In the second war, which started in 1999, a third brother was killed fighting. Khanpashi was tortured, according to the family, and had to have an arm with an infected wound amputated.

The elder Kulayev insists his sons were following orders and could not have known they were going to attack a school that morning of Sept. 1 last year, when they and 30 others boarded a small truck and drove to Beslan.

"Khanpashi had never done anything like that and he'd fought all his life. As for Nurpashi, the only reason he was there was to help his brother because of the arm problem," Kulayev said.

Moscow describes Chechnya as peaceful, but the drive from the hills across the plains reveals a landscape of war—heavily fortified Russian bunkers, armored columns, mine fields, and exhausted, impoverished civilians.

Ingushetia, the province across the western border, has for years provided a refuge from this nightmare. Its people, the Ingush, are closely related to the Chechens.

And Ingushetia was also home to several of the hostage-takers, including Rustam Atayev, who grew up in the village of Psedakh in a house on a dusty street lined with apple trees.

"He was tall and beautiful. He was responsible, careful, always helping. He made the girls smile," his stepmother Nurzhan Salamova said.

A picture of Rustam at about 12 shows a boy with a delicate mouth, large brown eyes and neatly combed hair.

Another photograph might partly explain how 13 years later, that boy ended up taking part in one of the most horrific hostage-takings in history.

This picture is of his younger brother Ibraghim, 11, lying dead, his skull cut in half.

"That happened in 2002," Solongiray Atayev, the father, said. "He was visiting his aunt in Grozny when he vanished from the street."

News emerged after more than a week that villagers in northern Chechnya had spotted men in camouflage digging a grave. It contained Ibraghim and two other boys—all naked, all with split skulls. "You can imagine how Rustam reacted," his father said.

According to his parents, Rustam Atayev continued to live quietly in Ingushetia until March 2003 when he was accused—wrongly they claim—of links to a group of Chechen rebels killed in a firefight nearby. *AFP*

PICTURE taken Sept. 6, 2004 shows relatives of victims of the Russian hostage siege crying at the cemetery in Beslan, North Ossetia. AFP

N. Korea says it won't rejoin nuke talks for now

SEOUL—North Korea said Monday it will not return to talks on its nuclear weapons programs before mid-September at the earliest, blaming the delay on military drills between the United States and South Korea.

A fourth round of six-party negotiations on the issue involving the two Koreas, China, the United States, Japan and Russia broke up on Aug. 7 after 13 days of intense and sometimes fiery discussions.

All six sides had agreed to meet again this week but North Korean Foreign Minister Paek Nam-Sun said the wargames had complicated matters.

"That is totally responsible for the delay of the next round of the six-party talks," he said of the exercises that started last week, Japan's Kyodo News reported from Pyongyang.

The drills, called Ulchi Focus Lens, have been denounced by North Korea as a dry-run for an invasion.

Asked how soon the talks might begin, Paek was quoted as replying: "Before the end of September ... if things are going well, mid-September is also possible."

The other five nations have accepted the delay, a South Korean official said in Seoul.

"There has been a consensus among the parties involved that the talks should be delayed given internal and external reasons," the official from the South Korean foreign ministry told reporters on condition of anonymity.

However, he said the military drills were not the only reason the talks were on hold, citing Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to Washington next week and the appointment of a US presidential envoy on human rights in North Korea.

China, North Korea's closest ally and host of the talks, tried to put a positive spin on the developments, insisting that it was not important to set a date for their resumption.

"The date of resuming the talks is not important," Deputy Foreign Minister Wu Dawei told Xinhua news agency after a hastily scheduled trip to meet Paek and other officials in the North Korean capital.

"The important thing is all the parties agreed to resume the talks and we all have kept contact and negotiation in the framework of the six-party talks."

According to Kyodo, Paek said resumption of the talks "depends on the United States, actually."

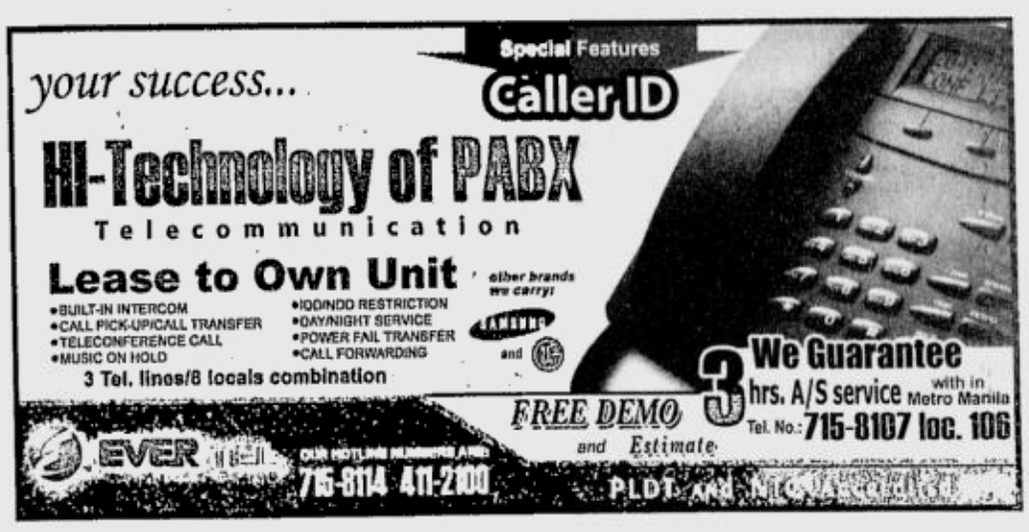
"The United States should abolish all the conditions that have compelled us to make the nuclear weapons," he added.

A Chinese draft statement submitted at the talks earlier this month reportedly offered North Korea a security guarantee and energy assistance in exchange for giving up its nuclear arsenal.

But North Korea's insistence on being allowed to run nuclear programs for peaceful use emerged as a key sticking point.

The United States has ruled out Pyongyang being allowed to operate light-water nuclear reactors to produce energy, although South Korea has said the North should have the right to maintain a civilian nuclear program.

Despite the differences, chief US negotiator Christopher Hill said last week he did not believe the issue was "a show-stopper." *AFP*



WORLDBRIEFS

Dirty bomb from Asia

CANBERRA—Australian nuclear experts raised concerns on Monday that unsecured sources of radioactive waste in medical centers in Southeast Asia could be used by militants to build a "dirty bomb." Experts from the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organization (ANSTO), who have checked radioactive waste in Southeast Asia for the past year, said cobalt was found unsecured in two countries after radiation therapy centers closed. About 25 other radiation centers are being investigated in a third country, The Australian newspaper reported on Monday. The experts declined to name the countries involved, but said Asian governments needed to do more to guarantee the safe disposal of the material, common in cancer treatments in major hospitals. *Reuters*

Cancer-killing technique

SYDNEY—Australian researchers said Monday that they had developed an extremely accurate technique for killing cancer cells with radiation without affecting surrounding health tissues. The scientists at Melbourne's Peter MacCallum Cancer Center said their process uses antibodies and DNA attached to a radioactive atom to identify and kill cancerous cells. The center's Tom Karagiannis told national broadcaster ABC that the cancer-killing molecules had been effective in laboratory tests and could undergo clinical trials within five years. *AFP*

Iraq charter

BAGHDAD—Iraq's Shiite-dominated parliament completed its work on a constitution on Sunday that was at once rejected by minority Sunnis, who said it would be thrown out in an October referendum. The text read to parliament failed to overcome objections by Sunnis, who lost their political dominance with the fall of President Saddam Hussein, despite intense US efforts to broker a compromise between Iraq's divided ethnic and religious groups. The United States and Britain, who see approval of a constitution as key to defusing an insurgency, welcomed the draft, hailing it as a victory for democracy over extremism. Rejection in the three of Iraq's 18 provinces dominated by Sunni Arabs would be enough to torpedo the constitution under current referendum rules. *Reuters*

Child sues Canberra

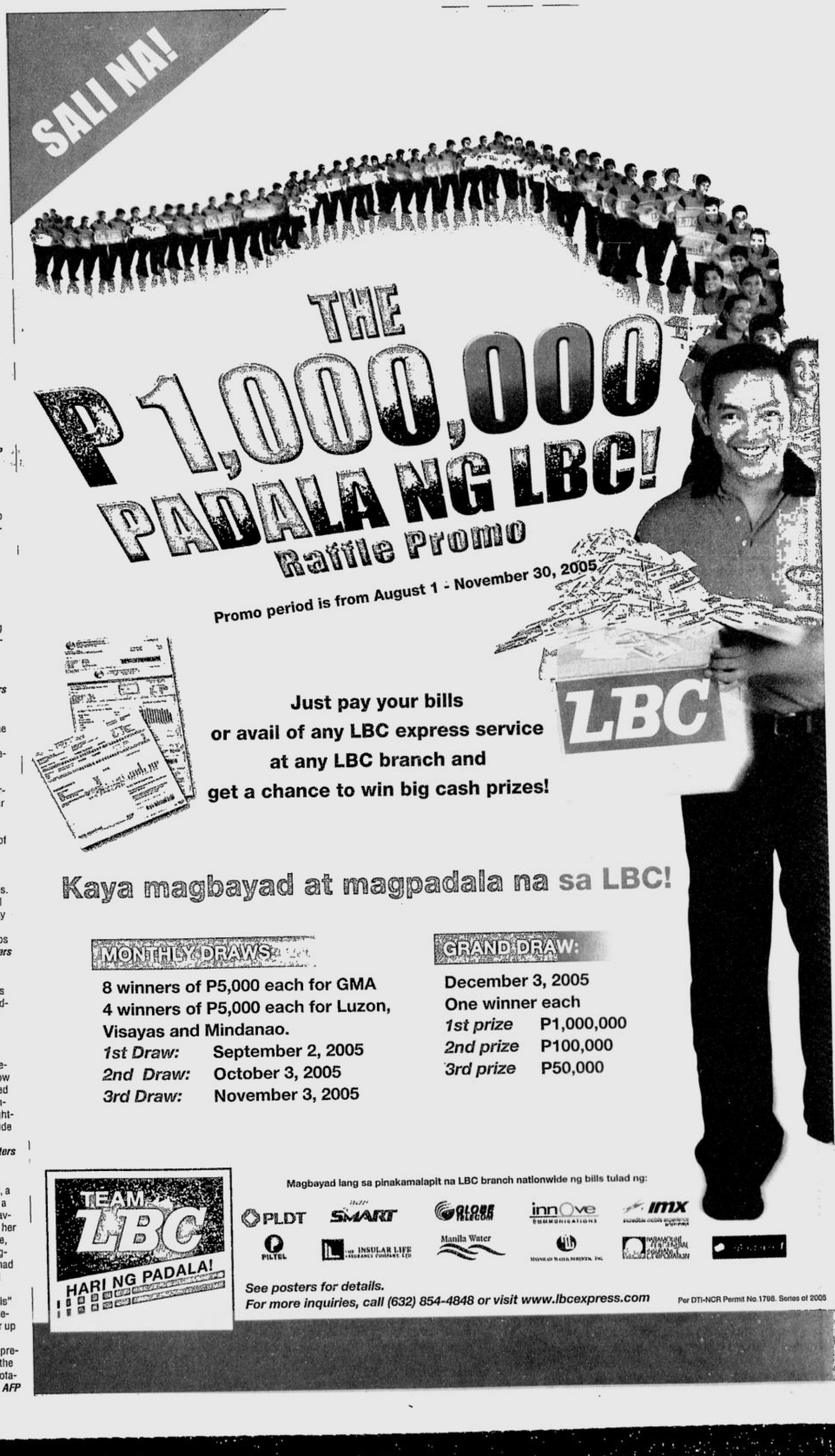
SYDNEY—A 10-year-old Iranian boy who says he suffers a psychological disorder after being detained for two years in razor-wire immigration detention centers is suing the Australian government. Shayan Badraie says he developed traumatic stress disorder while detained with his parents in the Woomera outback immigration center in South Australia state and Sydney's Villawood detention center between 2000 and 2002. Australia is a nation built on migrants but its policy of mandatory detention of illegal immigrants, regarded as among the toughest in the world, has helped conservative Prime Minister John Howard's government win four straight elections. Australia's strict policy includes detaining illegal arrivals, illegal workers and people who overstay their visas in razor-wire camps, often for years while their cases are heard. Human rights groups have strongly criticized the camps. *Reuters*

Have gun, will judge

TEHRAN—Iranian judges are to carry handguns from Monday after a judge was seriously wounded on Sunday in the fourth attack on a judiciary official in the last four weeks, officials said. Tehran's criminal prosecutor Fakhroldin Jaffarzadeh said the latest shooting meant judges would have to be armed. "All judges from prosecutors' offices will carry firearms from tomorrow and, in case they feel in danger, they are licensed to shoot," he told the ISNA students news agency. Judge Mohammad Reza Aghazadeh was fighting for his life after he was shot in the eye outside his Tehran home on Sunday morning, Justice Minister Jamal Karimirad said. *Reuters*

Prosthetic for elephant

BANGKOK—Thailand's most famous elephant, a landmine victim called Motala, has been given a temporary prosthetic foot to prepare her for having a permanent limb fitted in several months, her carers said on Monday. The 44-year-old female, who was injured in 1999 while working at a logging camp on the Thailand-Myanmar border, had to have her mutilated front left foot amputated and has been forced to hobble along on three legs. Motala was fitted with her "pre-prosthesis" on Aug. 10 and will wear the 10 kg shoe-like device which contains sawdust and cushions for up to six hours a day for the next five to eight months. "She has not had any reaction to the pre-prosthesis," Soraida Salwala from Friends of the Asian Elephant Foundation which cares for Motala, said. *AFP*



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OPINION

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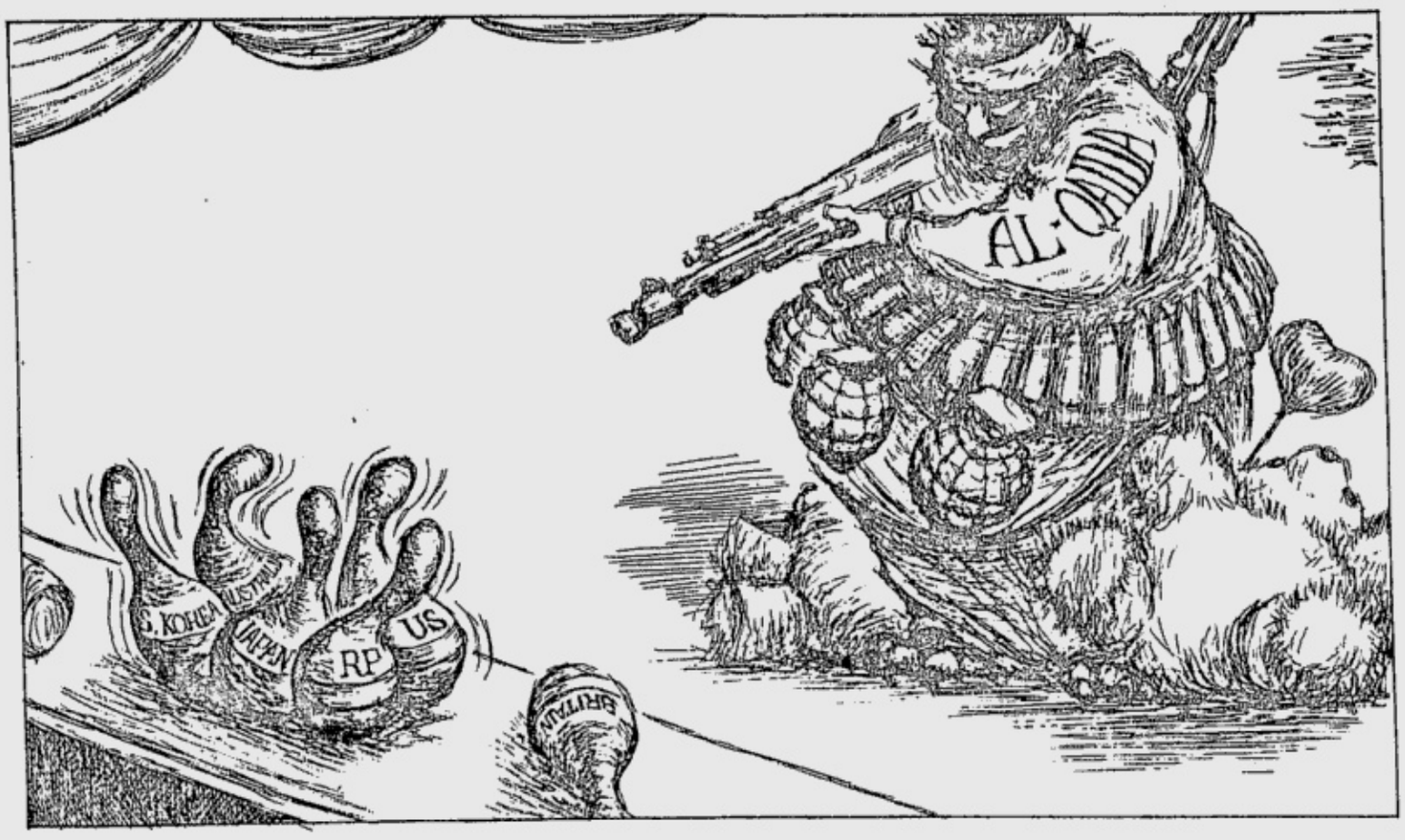

Holiday politics

EDITORIAL

WHAT'S going on here? Last Friday, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said it was "definite": Monday would be a regular working day. Malacañang would not declare the day a special holiday, he said, because RA 3827 specifies that National Heroes Day be observed on the last Sunday of August. He went on to explain that the situation was different from that of other holidays whose dates are fixed (such as June 12 for Independence Day). When such a holiday happens to fall on a Sunday, the following Monday has been traditionally declared as special (non-working) holiday.

Bunye had historical precedent to support his view. The Monday after National Heroes Day had never been declared a special holiday. Not even after President Macapagal-Arroyo and her advisers came up with "holiday economics," a quaint theory that says that an extended workless weekend made possible by moving the observance of certain official holidays to the closest weekend is a boost to domestic tourism and therefore the economy.

On Saturday, however, Bunye took back his announcement. He then joined Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita in saying that Monday would be a special holiday after all. Ermita said the President would issue a proclamation declaring Monday to be a holiday.

The proclamation was released Sunday, though it was dated Aug. 27, Saturday, and what it declared was some kind of semi-holiday. According to Proclamation No. 901, which was signed by Ermita "By authority of the President," Aug. 28 was being declared "a special (non-working) holiday in the public sector (except the Bureau of Customs) as well as all schools, both public and private, at all levels, in commemoration of National Heroes Day." One short (awkward and ungrammatical) paragraph sought to explain the issuance of the proclamation by saying "it is fitting that this day (National Heroes Day) be given its (*sic*) importance especially by the public sector as well as all schools." No attempt was made to explain why only students and public servants were being given the opportunity to honor our national heroes, both known and unknown.

If anyone among those who had been given one additional day to do so spared one moment to honor the memory of our heroes, no one seems to have heard about it. In fact, the official commemoration was held on Sunday—as scheduled—at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio, with Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga leading the rites attended by about 100 people, most of them World War II veterans.

Thus, if making Monday a limited holiday was supposed to make the commemoration of National Heroes Day more meaningful, it didn't achieve the purpose. Neither could there have been even the tiniest increase in domestic tourism, given the short notice Malacañang gave to potential holiday-makers. Besides how many government employees or students can afford to go on holiday tours or vacations in these hard economic times?

The fact is that after going gung-ho for holiday economics during its first two years, the administration seems to have grown cold to the idea. Since it moved the 2003 Independence Day from Thursday to Friday, it has transferred the commemoration of only one other holiday (Aug. 21, 2004) to give workers and students a three-day weekend.

But if it was not for holiday economics, what for was the extra day off given to students and government workers yesterday? How about politics? On Tuesday last week, more than a month after 42 congressmen signed the impeachment complaint against the President, five more affixed their signatures to it. Three days later, two more congressmen joined the move to impeach the President. Although one party-list representative withdrew his signature at about the same time, the group working for her impeachment had a net gain of six votes.

Was Malacañang perhaps worried that the impeachment move may be gaining some momentum? And did it declare a holiday to check that momentum or to have an extra day to rally its forces as the House justice committee moves closer to voting on the complaint? That possibility may seem remote to some people, but to those who have been observing closely how Malacañang is responding to the impeachment threat, it is not far-fetched. The President and her allies seem too willing and able to do anything and everything to save her presidency, even at the risk of demonstrating how inept, clumsy and panicky they can be.

'Black oxygen'

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

OIL prices closed at $67.40 a barrel this week. That's a long way from $1.80 a barrel in the 1950s. And when Arab members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries clamped an embargo in 1973, prices bolted overnight from over $2 a barrel to $11 plus. Quarrels at fuel pump queues erupted and economies went into tailspin.

Refinery fires, rising US and China demand, the Ecuador oil industry upheaval plus "just-in-case buying" spooked markets, the BBC reports. "We could easily test $70 a barrel."

Malacañang mumbles, meanwhile, about "coercive powers" for the President to enforce energy savings. The opposition is hypnotized over scraping up 79 votes to impeach the President.

Others are distracted by personal concerns. California Superior Court Judge Barbara Miller issued on Aug. 17 a bench warrant for Sen. Panfilo Lacson's arrest in the handcuffs controversy. The court ordered Lacson to appear on Sept. 7, reports the Philippine News of San Francisco.

"In a worst case scenario, we need to have coercive powers for the executive," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said. But "regular laws will work." Will they?

What do you remember about earlier oil crunches? newsroom colleagues ask those who're older (the Associated Press prefers the 1978 phrase "near-elderly" for us.)

Which one? World War II's fuel crunch? Or the 1973 artificial shortage, stemming from the Opec embargo?

Fuel dumps were bombed in that now dimly remembered war. Japanese forces controlled gasoline stocks. We read by coconut oil lamps. The horse-drawn carriage reappeared. Our 350-cavan *batel* sailed from Batangas to Cebu in seven days. And we hoofed it. One walked four hours on 20 kilometers of eerily deserted roads to reach the city from our evacuation home.

In 1973, you could only buy five liters at a time. So, people coasted from one gas pump queue to another. You hauled five-gallon containers "just in case" a station allowed an extra sale.

Abroad, 55 miles per hour speed limits were clamped on. President Jimmy Carter called for the "moral equivalent of war" to reduce dependence on foreign oil. That included filling the US strategic petroleum reserve and research for alternative energy. He was not reelected.

Habits die hard. Wasteful use of fuel continued. Few politicians think beyond the next election—or impeachment—even in countries that have no oil wells.

"I have this thing about Moses," Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir once griped. "He marched us for 40 years through the desert and led us to the only place in the Middle East that had no oil."

Failure to prepare is foolhardy because, unlike the 1973 artificial crisis, today's shortages are real, writes Peter Maas in his just published book, "The Breaking Point."

Supply's lead over demand was once considerable, but refinery shortages and surging demand have whittled that down. If use pulls ahead of production by even a fraction, oil prices could soar to triple-digit levels, Maas warns in The New York Times magazine. That'd trigger a global recession and affect almost every product, from cell phones to medicine.

Disruptions can come from terrorist attacks, producer shutdowns or geological factors. That'd "cut off the black oxygen that the modern world depends on."

The impact on ways of life would be profound. Pharmaceutical supplies and fertilizers for food production would dwindle. Ships and planes would be mothballed.

"Saudi Arabia is the sole oil superpower." Its 263 billion barrels reserve is almost double runner-up Iran's 133 billion barrels. Unexploited reserves in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge are only 10 billion barrels. New oil strikes in other countries offer small increments.

But today's record prices are straining producers. Indonesia, for example, is laying the basis to whittle back fuel subsidies. Even Saudi Arabia is feeling the strain as the world burns 84 million barrels daily.

Decades-old oil fields are not as "geologically spry as they used to be. Some may be incapable of producing, on a daily basis, the increasing volumes of oil that the world requires." "One thing is clear," warns Chevron, the second-largest American oil company's new ads. "The era of easy oil is over."

Will today's producers be able to meet rising world demand in the months ahead? The answer, Maas thinks, will depend on Saudi Arabia. Can it increase output beyond the 12.5-million-barrel target it set for 2009. Can it ramp up production, say up to 20 million barrels from wells that are past their prime? And more important, is it willing to do so?

"We have the petroleum equivalent of running an engine at ever-increasing speeds without stopping to cool it down or change the oil," says Saudi experts. And geology may not be forgiving. Wanton overproduction can wreck fragile and irreplaceable reservoirs, says Nawaf Obaid, a Saudi oil and security analyst.

Conservation, however, is a job consumers haven't buckled down to. "It's not our problem to tell a democratically elected government that you have to do something about your runaway consumers," Saudi experts say. "If your government can't do the job, don't expect other governments to do it for you."

When elephants collide, the ants get squashed. That's the danger we in impoverished oil-short countries face.

The government is held hostage by the impeachment controversy, Sen. Joker Arroyo rightly notes. Can a half-paralyzed regime lead us in the inevitable belt-tightening?

(*E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph*)

Good and bad

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THIS piece was sent to me by my friend Billy Esposo in the Internet. It's the good and bad about GMA's government. It goes:

Good: Spent more than P600 million on road-building. Bad: It was just one road. Good: Killed Marcos henchman and arch-opportunist Blas Ople by forcing him to do real work. Bad: Declared his corpse a national hero. Good: Magnanimously went out of its way to help a family that was in serious trouble. Bad: It was the Lopez family. Good: Successfully redistributed incomes. Bad: Nobody knows where the incomes were redistributed to. Good: Won the war against terrorists. Bad: The terrorists don't know it. Good: Made the country recall Diosdado Macapagal's greatness. Bad: There was nothing to recall. Good: Showed extraordinary compassion. Bad: To Joseph Estrada and Imelda Marcos. Good: Fought corruption. Bad: Corruption won. Good: Was the first administration in over 30 years to successfully invite a US president for a state visit. Bad: It was George W. Bush.

I thought I'd add a bit more to it:

Good: George Bush Jr. toasted GMA's adherence to democracy. Bad: George Bush Sr. toasted Marcos' adherence to democracy. Good: GMA and George W. Bush love democracy. Bad: It's equality they hate.

Good: Remembered Jose Rizal's death. Bad: Forgot Jose Rizal's life. Good: Is a great admirer of Jose Rizal. Bad: Is a great admirer only of Jose Rizal's height. Good: Said on Jose Rizal's grave that, being the source of this country's divisiveness, if she ran for president, this country would see no end of it. Bad: Didn't believe it. Good: Said on Jose Rizal's grave that if she ran for president, this country would have "never-ending divisiveness." Bad: Forgot to add after "ran for president," "and won."

Good: Launched a massive employment program. Bad: Hiring people to put up billboards and posters that said, "Vote GMA." Good: Launched a massive cleanliness program. Bad: Having street sweepers sweep off posters of FPJ, Roco, Lacson and Villanueva from walls during the campaign. Good: Launched a massive information drive. Bad: Through PCSO and Pagcor campaign ads about herself.

Good: Has one of the most IT-literate populations in the world. Bad: Still conducts elections by ballot box. Good: Has an electoral body that knows its arithmetic well. Bad: Particularly *dagdag* and *bawas*. Good: Has two of the longest-serving experts on electoral procedure. Bad: Ronaldo Puno and Virgilio Garcillano. Good: Has an electoral body that gets the election results to provincial canvassers faster than any of its counterparts in the world. Bad: Well before Election Day. Good: Other electoral bodies get to know the results of elections three hours after the polling booths close. Bad: The Comelec gets to know the results of elections three months before the polling booths open. (This reminds me of our advantage over other police forces in the world. Other police forces have a response time to crime of from 5 to 15 minutes. Ours has zero seconds. A crime happens, they're instantly there.)

Good: Has great faith in God's ability to work miracles. Bad: God has a Visayan accent, and responds to the call, "Hello, Garci." Good: God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and invisible. Garci is all-powerful, all-knowing and invisible. Good: Admitted to being the voice on the tape. Bad: Thinks it is a recording of "I Did It My Way." (Well, it is.) Good: Confessed to the worst electoral crime of all. Bad: Is her own judge, jury and exonerator. Good: Endured the supreme sacrifice of exiling her husband to God-knows-where at the height of "Hello Garci" scandal. Bad: Enjoyed (along with her husband) the supreme bliss of exiling her husband to God-knows-where.

Good: Enjoys the counsel of people who converse with God. Bad: God makes himself known through people with bad sartorial taste. Good: Wants to unite the country. Bad: Believes the country is Erap, Imelda Marcos, and herself. Good: Marcos once said in jest, "History will be my judge, but just to be sure I'll write the history myself." Bad: Might as well say, in all seriousness: "The rule of law will prevail, but just to be sure, I will be the law—with help from Villaraza et al." Good: Is a good Christian. Bad: Believes Christian charity begins at home. Good: Is loved conditionally by her family and friends. Bad: Is hated unconditionally by everybody else.

Good: Remembers the 10 Commandments. Bad: Forgot the "not" in them.

Good: "I am the Lord thy God, thou shalt not put strange gods before me." Bad: "I am the Lady thy president, thou shalt not put genuine election results before me." Good: "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." Bad: "God put me here." Good: "Remember to keep holy the Sabbath Day." Bad: "Today is a good day to lie." Good: "Honor thy father and thy mother." Bad: See above: Build a P600 million road for father. Good: "Thou shalt not kill." Bad: Don't resign, let the streets run with blood; alternatively, believe in George W's pal, Pat Robertson. Good: "Thou shalt not commit adultery." Bad: Ask Jose Pidal. Good: Thou shalt not steal. Bad: Ask Jose Pidal. Good: Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. Bad: Ask Acsa Ramirez. Good: "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife." Bad: Fine with the neighbor's husband. Good: "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods." Bad: The nation is not my neighbor.

Good: Constantly talks to God. Bad: In front of a mirror.

SC ruling on tapes weakens impeachment case

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE NUMBERS game in the House has become a big psywar, as the two sides slug it out in the media. I found quite amusing text messages quoting opposition leader Rep. Ronaldo Zamora claiming at 5:45 a.m, that his group needed only 13 more signatures. By 6:30 am., the text messages said only 12 signatures were needed. If these were to be believed, *mukhang hindi natutulog si Zamora*. The story about Rep. Florencio Vargas of Cagayan quitting the LP because he could no longer stand the pressure from party leaders to sign the impeachment complaint was dramatic. It blunts the opposition line that Malacañang has been pressuring House members to support GMA. *Sila din pala*. It also takes some of the burnish from the spiel that the opposition is an "idealistic" lot. The fact is that there is intense *ligawan* being carried out by both sides (Erap and Jinggoy Estrada are furiously moving to get impeach votes), and perhaps we can expect more drama as the *teleserye* in Congress reaches a climax this week.

* * *

Laguna Rep. Benjamin Agarao Jr. was recently quoted as opining that the opposition would not allow the House committee on justice to merely dismiss the amended complaint without giving it a chance to present their evidence against GMA, warning that they would lead protest actions if this happened. I also caught Zamora saying over radio that there are uncontrolled elements from the left and the right that threaten to go to the streets if the amended complaint is thrown out. The opposition should stop making such threats as it only makes them look irresponsible. There is an on-going process in the House and both sides have been heard extensively. In fact, the opposition has had a field day airing all its accusations against GMA in extremely extended "hearings" in both the House and the Senate, where her defense was not heard at all.

* * *

The fact is that, as the House majority lawyers such as Reps. Luis Villafuerte, Maurice Domogan, Salacnib Baterina and Rodolfo Antonino have stressed endlessly, the Constitution prohibits more than one impeachment complaint against the same accused official in a year, and they contend that the Lozano complaint, the first to be filed and referred, qualify for consideration. If the justice committee throws out the two other complaints, that has to be accepted by the whole nation. The opposition can re-file its case next year.

* * *

Little media play up was given to the Aug. 22 decision of the Supreme Court that ruled that a tape recording is inadmissible as evidence in court if it's not authenticated by the person who did the recording. This decision could weaken the opposition's impeachment complaint in which the "Garci tapes" are being presented as prime evidence.

In a decision penned by Justice Minita Chico Nazario, the Court reversed the Court of Appeals and acquitted broadcaster Francisco Torralba of libel charges on the ground that the tape recording of his radio program was not authenticated by the person who made the recording. The Court said that a tape recording, to qualify as evidence, must first be sworn to as correct and accurate, i.e., the person who taped it must first testify on details such as how he or she recorded it, what machine was used, and that the tape is a faithful recording. In requiring the recorder to stick his neck out, the Court seeks to prevent tampering with recordings and to protect the rights of the accused guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. As House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles, a lawyer and bar topnotcher, put it, in the Torralba case, "the operator who taped the recording was not shown to be competent or that proper safeguards had been done, or that the voices and conversation were genuine."

* * *

Recall that in the case of the wire-tapped "Garci tapes," the opposition came up with various people who claimed they had the original tapes, among them Alan Paguia, Samuel Ong, Francisco Tatad and Homobono Adaza, with Paguia claiming he edited them. But it failed to present the person who actually recorded those tapes. (It tried to pin down Sgt. Vidal Doble, but he denied it.) Obviously the recorder feared being prosecuted under the Anti-Wiretapping Law. The subsequent efforts to authenticate the tapes by an Australian expert, sought by Sen. Panfilo Lacson, and the US expert Barry Dickey, sought by Mike Defensor, only added to the confusion. Thus, the recent Court ruling may be the final nail on the impeachment coffin. No recorder's testimony, no evidence in court.

* * *

With this ruling weakening an already weak impeachment case, I can imagine that this could affect the opposition's drive to get the 79 signatures needed to send the case to the Senate. The House is the prosecutor in the impeachment case, and like any prosecutor, it wants to present a strong case and win it. But under the double whammy of the Anti-Wiretapping Law and the recent SC ruling, the complaint could be headed for defeat in the Senate even just on these counts. The question for the House members is: Why be part of a weak case? As Nograles put it, "This landmark case ends speculation on 'Hello Garci.' Having been tampered and not authenticated, and clearly illegal, they are not admissible as evidence in the eyes of the Supreme Court. The same is true in a Senate trial court."

My forecast is that GMA will preside at the UN Security Council in mid-September without that Damocles' sword over her head. But the most important reason for finishing the impeachment case fast is that, as four lady representatives—Girlie Villarosa of Mindoro, Corazon Malangyaon of Davao Oriental, Consuelo Dy of Pasay City and Lorna Silverio of Bulacan, argued in a TV talk show—our people are truly tired of the impeachment and want to get on with their lives, in view of all the serious problems this country faces.

Ad hoc holidays

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IF SOME of us need any more proof of what an ad hoc republic we have become, then they need look no further than events over the weekend. Friday evening, amid speculations about Monday (Aug. 29) being declared a non-working holiday, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye stated quite clearly that this would not be so. The observance of National Heroes Day had precisely been meant to fall on the last Sunday of August (Aug. 28 this year), he said. And that, I thought, was that.

Imagine the country's surprise then when Sunday's papers announced that Malacañang had changed its mind and had declared Monday a non-working holiday. Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had called him up at 6 p.m. of Saturday to announce her change of heart.

While students might have rejoiced at the prospect of an extended weekend, others, particularly businesspeople, were not so sanguine. A human resource consultant, who was part of a team-building exercise I had joined that weekend, lamented out loud the government's penchant for springing surprise holidays. "Don't they realize the impact on businesses and on our daily wage earners?" he ranted.

Over lunch at the Discovery Country Suites, after my family fetched me from Tagaytay Sunday morning, I realized with some chagrin that it was too late to book us for an overnight stay. If the objective is to promote domestic tourism, after all, government should announce a holiday early enough so families can make plans for a three-day weekend. But the two members of the family who follow daily schedules—my daughter the college student and my husband—were happy enough doing as they pleased the next day.

* * *

BUT the hubby's plans for an extra day's rest were soon thwarted by the clarification announced by, of all people, a deejay from a pop music station, who said the holiday pronouncement was only for students and public sector workers. We tried to confirm the news on public affairs radio, but their Sunday afternoon shows consisted mainly of lifestyle advice and showbiz news. Only by waking up very early yesterday morning and tuning in to early-morning TV and radio news did my husband finally confirm that indeed he had to report for work that day.

Never mind the thwarted plans for an extended weekend, or the inconvenience of, say, canceling Monday appointments then reconfirming them yet again. But the sheer incompetence of officials, notwithstanding their apology for the confusion they caused, is simply breathtaking.

Bunye and Ermita admitted that the President gave neither reason nor explanation for the sudden change, even if it only involved the observance of a national holiday. I can only hope her motivation was serious and significant enough to warrant the wholesale inconvenience.

* * *

THERE are speculations that the last-minute holiday was declared to fend off a vote in the House of Representatives regarding the impeachment of the President. Would one day make a difference in the fate of the impeachment complaint, which observers acknowledge seems headed to an early demise anyway? Perhaps Malacañang felt it needed more time to nail the commitment of legislators in the "undecided" camp, what with young lawmakers from pro-administration parties having crossed partisan lines to sign on to the impeachment bandwagon.

But if this is so, then I think it's one more reason to call for the President's resignation. The "Hyatt 10" had said they left the Arroyo Cabinet and called for the President's resignation because they sensed that she would devote the remaining years of her term to appeasing her enemies and compromising with powerful interests just so she could remain in power.

The resignation of former Ayala Land head Francisco Licuanan III as SBMA chair has already been attributed to the President's decision to override him on certain appointments just to accommodate her political allies, who are proving helpful in thwarting the progress of the impeachment. It doesn't seem all that farfetched that she would think nothing of throwing the entire country into an uproar by declaring an unscheduled holiday halfway through the weekend for political expedience. In that sense are we, the entire Filipino nation, as much hostages to GMA's political troubles as she is.

* * *

WHATEVER the motivation for declaring an unexpected holiday, there are still ways by which the President or her officials could minimize the inconvenience and losses arising from the work stoppages.

For starters, government could stop tinkering with the calendar. One would hope that with the opening of each new year, our planners in government would already know exactly how many non-working holidays there will be.

Private firms already factor these in when making their calculations on productivity, so why can't government? Release an official list of "working" and "non-working" holidays in a year and stick to it! That's not too hard now, is it?

Second, if we're going to have a "non-working" holiday, then make it non-working for everybody—workers in the private sector as well as in government; students in college and in private institutions as well as in other levels and in public schools. It's wasteful and stressful for citizens to have to interpret public announcements about holidays—or emergencies, as in typhoons and other disasters—as if they were quatrains by Nostradamus.

Finally, we have an entire network of government communication facilities, and yet official pronouncements contain either vague or incomplete information. Executive Secretary Ermita reportedly announced the late holiday simply by texting the news to newsrooms and reporters. *Ay-yay-yay*, only in the Philippines!

Letting go

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

(With all the gloom and doom hanging over us like the pollution over Makati, I thought I'd make your day by writing something to tickle your funny bone. Actually I did write something, but for some reason it didn't ring true. Instead I remembered that Junior's wife, Nancy, had asked when I intended to write another piece on "Centering Prayer." Anyone under 40 may not necessarily identify with what it has to say, but anyone in mid-life will recognize certain truisms. I have to thank my friend Cris for sharing the following article with me. I hope that it touches the right chords in you. Unfortunately the name of the author was not indicated.)

WHEN Nikos Kazantsakis was a young man, he interviewed an old monk on Mount Athos. At one stage, he asked him, "Do you skill struggle with the devil?"

"No," the monk replied. "I used to, but I've grown old and tired and the devil has grown old and tired with me. Now I leave him alone and he leaves me alone!"

"So your life is easy then," Kazantsakis asked. "No more struggles?"

"Ah, no," replied the monk, "its worse. Now I struggle with God!"

Someone once quipped that we spend the first half of our lives struggling with the devil and the second half of our lives struggling with God. While that captures something, it is too simple, unless we define "the devil" more widely to mean our struggles with the untamed energies of youth: eros, restlessness, sexuality, the ache for intimacy, the push for achievement, the search for moral cause, the hunger for roots, and the longing for companionship and a place that feels like home.

It's not easy, especially when we're young, to make peace with the fires inside us. We need to establish our own identity and find, for ourselves, intimacy, meaning, self-worth, quiet from the restlessness, and a place that feels like home. We can spend 50 years, after we've first left home, finding our way back there again.

But the good news is that generally we do get there. In mid-life, perhaps only in late mid-life, we achieve something the mystics call "proficiency," a state wherein we have achieved an essential maturity—basic peace, a sexuality integrated enough to let us sleep at night and keep commitments during the day, a sense of self-worth, and an essential unselfishness. We've found our way home. And there, as once before the onset of puberty, we're relatively comfortable again, content enough to recognize that our youthful journeyings, while exciting, were also full of restlessness. We'd like to be young again, but we don't want all that disquiet the second time. Like Kazantsakis' old monk, we've grown tired of wrestling with the devil and he with us. We now leave each other alone.

So where do we go from there, from home? The second half of life, just like the first, demands a journey. While the first half of life, as we saw, is very much consumed with the search for identity, meaning, self-worth, intimacy, rootedness, and making peace with our sexuality, the second half has another purpose, as expressed in the famous epigram of Job: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I go back."

Where do we go from home? To an eternal home with God. But to do that, we have first to shed many of the things that we legitimately acquired and attached ourselves to during the first half of life. The spiritual task of the second half of life, so different from the first, is to let go, to move to the nakedness that Job describes.

What does that entail? From what do we need to detach ourselves? First and most importantly, from our wounds and anger. The foremost spiritual task of the second half of life is to forgive—others, ourselves, life, God. We all arrive at mid-life wounded and not having had exactly the life of which we dreamed. There's a disappointment and anger inside every one of us and unless we find it in ourselves to forgive, we will die bitter, unready for the heavenly banquet.

Second, we need to detach ourselves from the need to possess, to achieve, and to be the center of attention. The task of the second half of life is to become the quiet, blessing grandparent who no longer needs to be the center of attention but is happy simply watching the young grow and enjoy themselves.

Third, we need to learn how to say goodbye to the earth and our loved ones so that, just as in the strength of our youth we once gave our lives for those we love, we can now give our deaths to them, too, as a final gift.

Finally, we need more and more to immerse ourselves in the language of silence, the language of heaven. Meister Eckhard once said: "Nothing so much resembles God as silence." The task of mid-life is to begin to understand that and enter into that language.

And it's a painful process. Purgatory's not some exotic, Catholic doctrine that believes that there is some place in the next life outside of heaven and hell. It's a central piece within any mature spirituality which, like Job, tells us that God's eternal embrace can only become fully ecstatic once we've learned to let go.

(Practitioners of Centering Prayer believe that it is through the practice that we learn to let go.)

A glass for filling

YOUNG BLOOD

Irene C. Cunanan-Estrellado

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

INADEQUATE. If there's one word that best describes how I feel about myself at this very moment, that would be it.

Four years after I first set foot in the College of Law, I still have this sick feeling in my stomach that I don't know all the things that I ought to know by heart by this time. It scares me so much that I would wake up in the middle of the night looking and reach for my copy of the Revised Penal Code in the dark just to find out what is the 22nd aggravating circumstance. Of course, I would quickly realize, to my relief, that there are only 21 of them. Now, tell me that I'm not losing it.

Once, I had this weird and funny dream (more like a nightmare, if you ask me) wherein I was called to recite in my Political Law Review Class and was asked a very simple question: What is the law to which all laws must conform to be valid? It is also called the supreme law of the land. That's easy, I said to myself. It's... it's... but darn it, I didn't know the answer! I couldn't remember! I looked at my classmates and they were murmuring the answer to me, but I couldn't quite make out the word. Con... consti... tion... Huh? I finally blurted out, constipation! Then I woke up gasping for breath, and boy if that isn't enough to give you constipation. If I couldn't even remember the word "constitution," how much more its content and substance. Thank God, it was just a dream.

Some people might think that I'm just overreacting. Maybe I am, but I can't help it. I feel as if what I know is not enough. And if you're a law school senior, you know that that is not a good sign. It spells doom—my doom. It means I have a great chance of not making it in the bar exams.

Many people are counting on me (myself included). Take my mom, for instance, who won't even entertain the possibility that her precious daughter might not make it. My classmates and friends, on the other hand, don't take me seriously each time I tell them that I am worried about the bar, as if I don't have the right to feel any degree of anxiety! Hello! I'm human, complete with a nervous system and all!

My family pressures me. My friends pressure me. I pressure myself. I have this urge to yell at them (myself included)' to say: "People, you're not helping!"

Now, don't get me wrong. My feeling of inadequacy does not spring from lack of competent professors in the College of Law. True, I am enrolled in a law school in the province, but I do have brilliant professors. My professor in Taxation I and II, for example, keeps his students' mouths open in awe with his knowledge of every tiny bit of detail about the subject. Another professor, who is not really a big fan of a certain law book author (whose name I will withhold), often criticizes and correct the annotations in the book. And he (my professor) always turns out to be right.

So, if it's not my professors, who or what is the culprit? I'm a fairly diligent student. My grades are okay. I read my books (almost always anyway), digest cases, take down notes and pay attention to my professors (except when they really bore me to death). If it's not my professors or my study habits or my grades, then it must be the pressure of having to pass nine equally broad and difficult subjects in the bar. It's the perception that to pass the bar, I should know **everything** that makes me feel inadequate. It's the realization that I'm not perfect that makes me freak out. I demand and expect too much of myself. And I'm human after all.

I've heard my law professors say that passing the bar is not just hard work, but also partly luck and most importantly faith in oneself. I must have forgotten the last part. I guess I should not be so pessimistic. I should stop seeing myself as a glass half empty, but rather as a glass half full, with the other half just waiting to be filled. I still have a year or so to fill it up. Hopefully, by September next year, I will no longer have this feeling of inadequacy.

Irene C. Cunanan-Estrellado, 24, is a BA Speech Communication graduate of the University of the Philippines, Diliman. She is currently a 4th year law student at the University of Nueva Caceres in Naga City.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Showbiz intrigue

"There is intrigue in every industry. But in show biz, it is always magnified. It happens all the time. I've learned to accept that. Otherwise, I would never be happy; I would forever be paranoid."

—Actor Ricky Davao, complaining that he was tired about being asked if he was gay because of some of his roles

Toilet management

"If we cannot manage our toilets, we cannot manage anything."

"Our international airports, most especially at the Naia, are the Philippines' windows to the world. Naia is a microcosm of our society, culture and environment. If we are to improve our image to better attract tourists and investors, we have to start with Naia.

—Manila International Airport Authority General Manager Alfonso Cusi

Employee welfare

"Taking care of your manpower is one way of ensuring that the business would thrive."

—Spoofs Ltd. Inc. owner Carlo Anthony Dobles on keeping his employees motivated

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Sign of a true, meaningful democracy

KUDOS to Randy David for his column titled "Change." (PDI, 8/07/05) I take off my hat to him for his keen, analytical mind in discerning the meaning of change.

Yes, I fully agree with him that change is not to be achieved but to be recognized. As the saying goes, change is more or less permanent, and that everything changes except the word "change."

The people who belong to 70-80 percent of our populace are now beginning to assert their rightful place in the mainstream of our body politic which is at present controlled by the elite. They want to eradicate the politics of patronage, popularity, guns, goons and gold. They want to change the Philippine political landscape, and this is a good sign of a true and meaningful democracy.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

—HERIBERTO A. BAUTISTA, municipal consultant, Municipality of Pozorrubio, Pangasinan

Safety of motoring public at all times

THIS refers to the letter sent by Suzette Rodriguez (PDI, 8/16/05), regarding overloaded trucks on the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX). We would like to thank Rodriguez for the feedback.

We wish to inform her that a moratorium on the implementation of the rules on overloaded vehicles was agreed upon between the implementing government agencies (Department of Public Highways, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Land Transportation Office) and the truckers last March 2005. Thus, the Philippine National Construction Corp. had to temporarily suspend the apprehension of overloaded vehicles while various issues on the law's implementing rules and regulations had yet to be resolved. The moratorium was lifted only last July 31, 2005.

It is the policy of the PNCC to apprehend dangerous cargo tops. These are vehicles with loads haphazardly and precariously arranged so as to pose a danger to the motoring public. In fact, our records would show that we apprehended 237 overloaded vehicles for the month of June and 197 overloaded vehicles for the month of July.

Thank you very much for your concern. Rest assured that the PNCC aims to ensure safe travel to our motoring public at all times.

—MANUEL LUIS ANTONIO, senior assistant vice president and head, Philippine National Construction Corp., Edsa cor. Reliance Street, Mandaluyong City

Give consumers a break by being honest, transparent

AWAKENED leaders in government and civil society and NGOs must now step in to arrest the nefarious insatiable appetite and greed of oil industry people.

All price increases must be based on individual company's actual disclosures of acquisition cost of their petroleum stocks as shown and certified in audited transaction receipts, not on the roller-coaster movement of world oil price per barrel.

We also know that oil companies have a stock reserve good for 90 days which are not immediately affected by a given oil price increase. We understand that business must not sacrifice its profitability and we accept this reality.

Let's have oil price adjustment, fine. But then let it be based on an oil company's financial acquisition receipts on its stocks and not on the erratic oil price movement.

While we cannot control the geopolitical reality of oil as a sensitive world commodity, we, the consumers, can demand that all price hikes in the Philippines by these oil players be based solely on audited and certified oil stock acquisition receipts.

Please be honest enough and give us consumers a break from this heavy yoke of business greed.

—VIC DEL FIERRO JR., president, Coalition for Consumer Protection & Welfare Inc., vicdelfire@yahoo.com

Anti-breastfeeding ad

WE would like to call PDI's attention to the ad of Pro-Kids Disposable Diaper. (Sunday Lifestyle, PDI, 8/14/05)

The ad showed a baby drinking from a huge bottle although the advertisement was all about disposable diapers. It thus violated the intent of Executive Order 51, which aims to promote breastfeeding and block forces that would undermine breastfeeding or idealize bottle-feeding.

We call PDI's attention particularly to Secs. 3, 5 and 6 of EO 51.

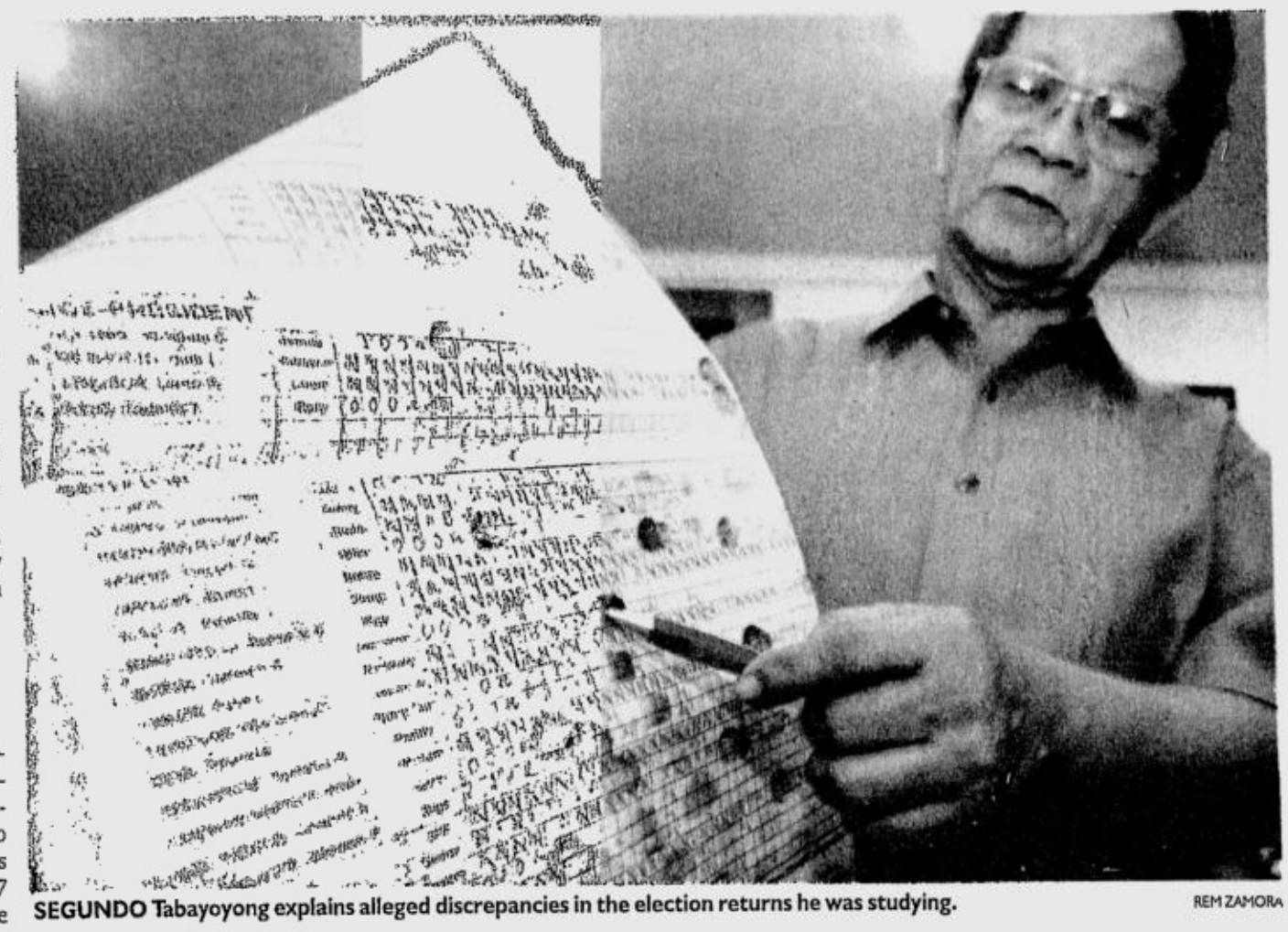
It is ironic that the advertisement appeared just after the celebration of World Breastfeeding Week, during which a lot of information on the hazards of bottle-feeding appeared on your newspaper.

The breastfeeding culture is on the brink of extinction. National data show that in Metro Manila, only 0.5 percent of mothers in Metro Manila exclusively breastfeed for 24 days; in Southern Tagalog, only 0.6 percent. World Health Organization recommends exclusive breastfeeding for six months and sustained breastfeeding for two years and beyond, for optimum child health and development.

Let us work together to save 16,000 lives! According to WHO's estimate, this is the number of children who die each year for not being breastfed. Those who survive the cow's milk menace suffer from degenerative illnesses like diabetes, hypertension and heart disease.

May we respectfully offer our expertise in providing updated information to INQUIRER readers. We hope we can join hands in nurturing the future Filipino generation.

—ELVIRA L. HENARES-ESGUERRA, NONA D. ANDAYA-CASTILLO, co-directors, Children for Breastfeeding



SEGUNDO Tabayoyong explains alleged discrepancies in the election returns he was studying. REM ZAMORA

Why the raid on Tabayoyong's place?

ROMULO Makalintal, lawyer of Vice President Noli de Castro, claimed that the election documents seized from the rented residence of Segundo Tabayoyong, formerly with the National Bureau of Investigation as its expert on questioned documents, could not be used as evidence in the electoral protest of former Sen. Loren Legarda against De Castro.

Then why did the military and the police conduct a raid without a search warrant on Tabayoyong's rented room just to confiscate the documents? Makalintal should just have waited for Legarda's lawyers to present the documents in court and wait for the court to reject them. But the truth is that these documents were strong proof of electoral fraud, and that is the reason why the raid was conducted and the documents seized even without a search warrant.

The danger is that, even after the documents have been returned to Tabayoyong, some of them—the ones really damaging to both President Macapagal-Arroyo and De Castro—may be missing. The "Hello Garci" tapes already hinted of massive electoral frauds. What has happened here is suppression of evidence, comparable to the suppression of the envelope allegedly containing strong evidence against President Estrada during his impeachment trial. That led to Edsa II.

The raid on a domicile of a citizen who has not even been accused of any crime is a gross violation of a citizen's civil and human rights. If this is condoned by our government, no citizen of this country is safe from illegal searches and seizures.

—CINDY BAJAO, 147 Summitville Sbd., Bayanan, Muntinlupa City

The cry of teachers

WE, in the Catholic community, particularly the Couples for Christ, are praying hard for love, friendship and peace to prevail in our country. We pray for the Holy Spirit to enlighten and guide each of us, Filipinos, to the right path.

However, we are also begging the government to lend an ear to the cry of our teachers. Many of our members are teachers. With the soaring prices of commodities and the increase in transportation fares, their present salaries can hardly make both ends meet.

We hope the government will listen to their cry before our teachers seek jobs in other countries which can offer them better compensation.

—TEODORA DELGADO CONDE, 1975 G. St. Jude Katamanan, Tondo, Manila

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Crossed-check policy meant to protect pensioners

THIS is in response to the letter of GSIS (Government Service Insurance System) pensioner Ernesto de Luna of Camarines Norte. (PDI, 8/16/05) He lamented how the GSIS' crossed-check policy has resulted in a harder life for pensioners. "Why fix things when they are not broken?" he asked, even as he expressed his preference for the old system of direct encashment of checks.

The GSIS' decision to implement the crossed-check policy was adopted as a response to numerous—and verified—complaints about fraudulent encashment. Prior to its effectivity, not a few reported that they failed to receive their checks, only to learn later on that, somehow, their checks had been encashed.

While the old system may be more convenient, the GSIS cannot afford to continue with it. The weakness in the system, particularly from the moment the GSIS released the check until it reached the intended recipient, had to be corrected.

We want to assure pensioners, like De Luna, that the crossed-check policy was not implemented on a whim. It was meant to counter irregularities, and ultimately protect GSIS members, whether retired or in active service, from losing their hard-earned money.

After all, wouldn't the lives of our pensioners become harder if someone else ends up getting their money?

—ELLA E. VALENCERINA, vice president, Public Affairs Office, Government Service Insurance System

GMA should keep promise to coco farmers

I WISH to appeal to President Macapagal-Arroyo to leave a legacy as her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal did, when he said, "I would rather go to jail than see our people hungry."

Since the Sandiganbayan and the Supreme Court have already ruled and decided, with finality, on the controversial coconut levy fund in favor of the coconut farmers, the President should facilitate its immediate release to the claimants, beneficiaries or their heirs.

The effort made by former PCGG Chair Heidi Yorac was a great relief to the coconut farmers. However, if the President entrusts this fund to the wrong person, I believe only a very few will be benefited by it, and history might just repeat itself.

GMA still has the chance to rectify her lapses in judgment and recover from her political debacle. She needs only to keep her promises to our people, particularly to the poor and small coconut farmers.

The Truth Commission cannot salvage the crisis of the presidency, and the Charter change will not solve our country's problems. The Constituent Assembly will only perpetuate political dynasties, cronyism and oligarchy. The President will do better to get the trust and confidence of our people, especially the silent majority, by doing her job well and honestly and by keeping her promises.

—LUISITO S. SAN VALENTIN, Manila

NO. 10 BOX

Dear Readers, Text us your comments, suggestions and views on today's news or how it was delivered. Tell us about the news you are interested in and the things you want improved in your favorite newspaper. Text INQUIRER <section keyword> name/city/message and send to 283 (Smart) or 2207 (Globe). The section keywords are indicated in the logo of each section.

Do you think that oil rationing is necessary?

no, becoz it will lead only to corruption n palakasan system where only d rich n famous and d corrupt government officials
—**juancho jose, 37,** *cainta*

I don't agree dat fuel rationing is necessary, I would suggest that we CONSERVE FUEL, MINIMIZE THE USE OF VEHICLES, TAKE PUBLIC TRANSPORT, WALK, Use BICYCLES.
—**James Philip Narisma, 39,** *ILOILO CITY*

...mayron shortage of dollars dahil tagal na tayo dependent on oil imports. Dapat noon pa natin dinevelop energy sources na sagana tayo...
—**Gigi sicat,** *muntinlupa*

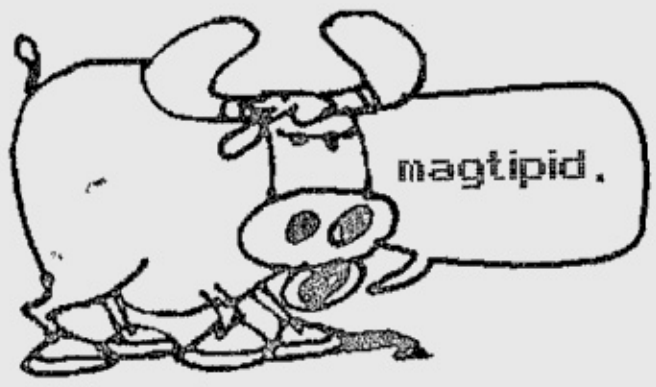
oil rationing is necessary, just like financial budgeting, but they should be applicable to private vehicles...
—**edward jose lambinicio, 32,** *marikina*

again it is d consumer who suffers bec d govt is content 2 devise short term solutions instead of promoting alternative sources of energy
—**lyn llamas, 29,** *mandaluyong*

no it will not prosper. Pinoys have a predilection 2 circumvent d law, hence think of other means aside from rationing!
—**gerry singson,** *vigan city*

Yes! Oil rationing wud put a limit 2 d excessive use of oil as pipol wud use wat is given dem.
—**Rosemarie P. Lindawan, 35,** *Ifugao*

Oil rationing for the poor, no need na! Ako ibenenta ko na ang sasakyan ko bago pa umabot ang crudo ng P50!



—**willie b somabes, 42,** *nova qc*

the government should look at developing other indigenous sources of fuel rather than resort to oil rationing.
—**marirose Garcia, 30,** *manila*

The government is making conscious awareness of the people for the need for energy conservation, so as to develop self-discipline.
—**PATRIA CORPUZ, 61,** *imus, CAVITE*

NO to oil rationing, YES to Energy Conservation. Why not impose heavy taxation & registration fees on luxury cars and SUVs?
—**gigi sicat,** *muntinlupa cty*

With prices of oil going up, in what specific ways can you help conserve energy?

Biking! :)
—**Roche Cuyco,** *makati city*

Turn off electric lights in the room when no one is around; REGULATE d use of appliances & VEHICLES.
—**JAMES PHILIP NARISMA, 39,** *ILOILO CITY*

with oil prices going-up continuously, it helps to lessen our electric bills by using low-rated energy saving lights...
—**Jose T Ferrer, 55,** *Samp. Mla.*

Choose a smaller car, think small, it costs less in terms of the materials it takes to manufacture it, and i use refined motor oil in ur vehicle, you'll be saving energy especially our non-renewable petroleum resources... it will likely be more fuel efficient...
—**elmer guevarra,** *mother goose, urdaneta city*

avoid turning d volume of appliances 2 loud bcoz d louder 8 is, d more energy is used. cluster d house chores lyk ironing only once a week.
—**Shella, 24,** *dvo city*

Conserve energy by using cloth diapers instead of disposable diapers (with plastic lining). At 7 ounces per used disposable diaper, an average baby will account for over 3000 pounds of waste in a landfill site over a period of 2 and a half years, ONE BILLION TREES, IN THE MANUFACTURE OF DISPOSABLE DIAPERS!
—**Elmer Guevarra, mother goose,** *urdaneta city*

Try to set limits, instead of having your kids watch cartoons on T.V. for hours
—**Allan Jun D. Pinto,** *subic, zambales*

encourage the use of traditional vehicles such as bikes, calesa, etc. It promotes healthy environment and body.
—**Marvin Madera, 27,** *Makati City*

Lessen from six hours, to just four hours of switching-on of aircon during night time, and just take tricycle instead
—**THELMA CORPUZ, 36,** *imus, cavite*

The 1st and most important thing we can do, is CUT DOWN our use of Vehicles. For 10 sunny days a month, try to go without a car, but instead use bicycles for transportation. Reward your family by going out for a picnic, without using your car...
Driving a car is a privilege, and a luxury for two or more people to share. Every 5 years, we add about 100,000,000 more vehicles to our planet! Explore your world on foot or by bicycle.
Walk, use bicycles, or take public transit to work, once a week, once a month.
—**Elmer Guevarra,** *Ecology instructor, Urdaneta city*

Turn off d TV set as soon as I hear my mother snoring in front of it...
—**Lorna E. Barile, 56,** *Los Baños*

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

Across the **NATION**

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Investors wary of fight over Subic top post

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Investors and locators here are wary of the hasty changes in the administration setup of the controversy-hounded Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, following the resignation of SBMA Chair Francisco Licuanan III.

"The impending transition in the leadership of SBMA has seriously affected our business operations. We just can't help but to stay as mere spectators of unfolding events," said Jimmy Vicente, secretary general of the Automotive Rebuilders Association of Subic (Aris).

He said they wanted President Macapagal-Arroyo to appoint the SBMA chairman and administrator who are "not beholden to anybody else."

"Based on what we've heard, it is most likely that the new chairman and administrator of SBMA would come from two clashing political camps," Vicente told the reporters, referring to the Gordons of Olongapo City and the Magsaysays of Zambales, known political rivals.

Businessmen here are afraid that their "day-to-day affairs" would be seriously affected by the new transition, Vicente said, adding that SBMA has not been conducive to investors lately.

"Even if we are in a wait-and-see status, we still do our businesses here quietly. We just hope the top positions of SBMA would be occupied by persons with no political inclination," he said.

"Could you just imagine what would happen if the officials of SBMA are in conflict with one another? Businessmen eventually would not stand it and worse, we would be forced to close down and leave Subic."

Gary Mendoza, president of the Subic Freeport Chamber of Commerce, said the resignation of Licuanan would revive the "undivided arrangement" for the chair and administrator of the SBMA.

"Without even thinking of any personality, we favor that only one person would assume the two posts, which are originally occupied by only one person," he said.

He said the recent setup, with Licuanan as chair and Alfredo Antonio as administrator, was "chaotic."

Since May this year, when Ms Arroyo appointed Antonio to the monetary board, many businessmen in the freeport have not been issued with certificates of registration, Mendoza said.

But Antonio has yet to assume his post at the monetary board. This has left the business sector here "confused" as to who to consult with.

The Magsaysay family has been lobbying to clinch the much-coveted chairmanship of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) which will be vacated by Licuanan III, Sen. Richard Gordon said yesterday.

Gordon, former SBMA chair, said he has learned from Zambales local officials that their governor, Vic Magsaysay, and his son JV Magsaysay, a director at SBMA, were eyeing the top post at the free port.

"They're asking for it even for the time being," he said in a press briefing.

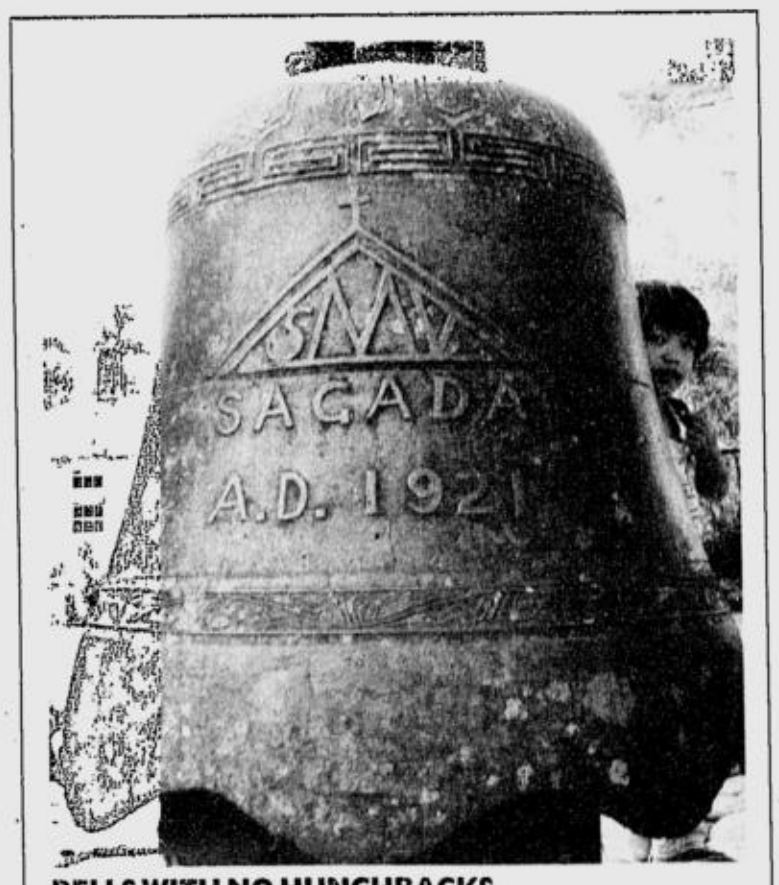
Gordon showed media men a text message from Mayor Wilma Billman of Castillejos, Zambales, who said: "The news is all over town that one of the Magsaysays had clinched the chairmanship of SBMA."

When asked who the Magsaysays were pushing to assume the SBMA chairmanship, he curtly said: "Themselves."

The senator and the Magsaysay family had been implicated in the sudden resignation of Licuanan, former president of Ayala Land Inc. who was appointed to the top SBMA post less than a year ago.

Gordon and the Magsaysays had reportedly tried to lobby for the appointment of their own proteges to the post of SBMA administrator, in place of Alfredo Antonio. They had flatly denied the reports.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to appoint Gordon's protege Armand Arreza as a replacement of Antonio had precipitated the resignation of Licuanan. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk and TJ Burgonio in Manila*



BELLS WITH NO HUNCHBACKS
You won't find any hunchbacks ringing this bell, which American missionaries donated to Sagada town in Mt. Province in 1921.
EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Army says NPA rebel captured in Mindoro

LUCENA CITY—Government soldiers captured one communist New People's Army rebel in Occidental Mindoro after two separate encounters on Sunday, according to an Army official based in the island province.

Lt. Col. Elmer Quiros, commander of the Army's 80th Infantry Battalion based in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro, identified the captured rebel as Ferdinand Medina, a member of the NPA group operating in the area.

In a phone interview, Quiros said two patrolling Army teams led by a certain Sgt. Rosete encountered at least 20 NPA rebels in the vicinity of Barangay Sta. Lucia, Sablayan town early Sunday morning.

Quiros said the rebels' presence in the area was reported by barangay officials.

The rebels were allegedly extorting food items and imposing P100 revolutionary tax on the town's residents.

In the afternoon, Quiros said, another unit of patrolling soldiers, backed up by military helicopters, encountered an estimated 40 NPA rebels in the southern part of Occidental Mindoro, resulting in the capture of Medina. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Tips for saving energy proposed for schools

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Turn off the lights and air conditioner or electric fan before leaving the classroom. Turn off computers when not in use and take the stairs instead of the elevator.

These are simple and little things that can add up to a lot of savings, said Fr. Roderick Salazar Jr., national president of the Catholic Educators Association of the Philippines (CEAP), as he encouraged schools to find ways to cut down on energy consumption.

Salazar, president of the University of San Carlos in Cebu City, said school administrators should find ways to cut down on their electricity consumption as part of measures to address the soaring prices of fuel.

While the energy saving measures have not yet been discussed by the 1,300-member CEAP, Salazar said some schools have started adopting the measures.

"It is up to the administrators to adopt their own (energy-saving) measures," Salazar told the INQUIRER during a recent forum on House Bill 3773 (Responsible Parenthood and Population Management Act of 2005) held here.

He said teachers and administrators could encourage their students and employees to ensure that the last person who comes out turns off all electrical appliances.

now on our 28th year...

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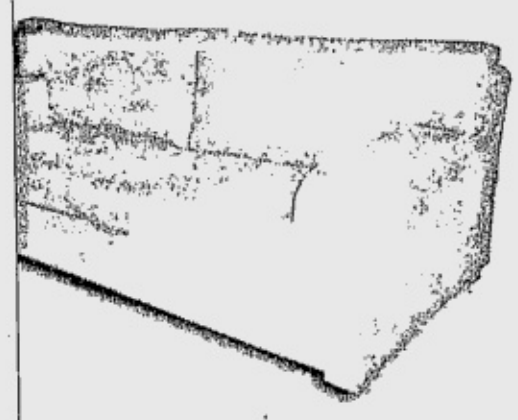
up to 50% off on these specially selected items



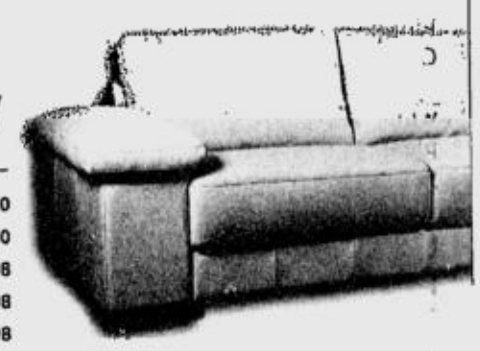
livingspace

OLD ENGLISH 8516 sliding curio cabinet SRP P35,950 20% off **now P28,760**
APRICOT dining set for six, rustic finish SRP P32,980 20% off **now P 26,379**
SILVANO nest of tables, vintage finish SRP P14,700 50% off **now P7,350**
TAO 5-drawer chest, walnut SRP 36,665 40% off **now P21,999**
MADRID end table, rubberwood SRP P5,990 50% off **now P 2,995**

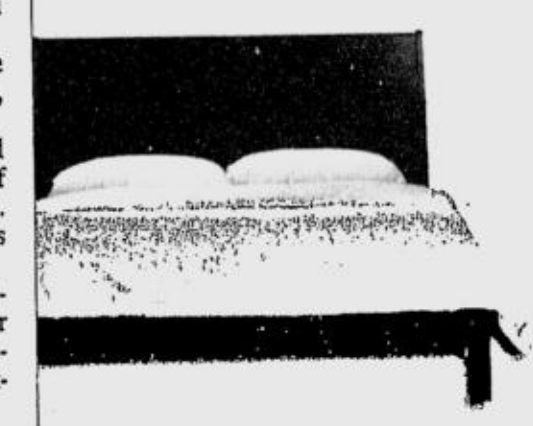
JOBBHE sofa set with (1) 3-seater (1) 2-seater fabric SRP P47,700 50% off **now P23,850**

leathergallery

LA NOUVA Eli 241 2-seater sofa in full leather SRP 39,750 40% off **now P23,850**
WEBBING LA 8094 loveseat, full bicast leather SRP P47,985 40% off **now P28,790**
NATALE 3577 broadway 3-seater sofa, full leather, Italy SRP 89,950 30% off **now P 59,998**
ITALSOFA 3-seater full leather SRP 56,900 30% off **now P 39,798**
LA NOUVA fabla sectional sofa SRP P88,950 20% off **now P69,998**



CLEMENT 6492 3-seater sofa, leather match SRP 58,330 40% off **now P34,998**



sleepshop

MAHARANI queen bed with (2) hb, bf (2) nt **SRP P37,950** 35% off **now P24,650**
BALI queen bed, antique oak/bamboo **SRP P49,998** 50% off **now P24,998**
SEALY bed/matress and frame 50% off
SOUTHSHORE series bedroom/dress set 50% off
JOCO ITALIA futon sofa bed 30% off

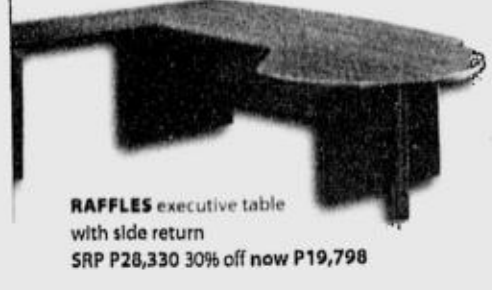
SAONAM queen size bedroom set with headboard, bedframe and (2) nite tables (without mattress) SRP P42,950 30% off **now P28,998**

recliners & loungers

Scansit lounge chair with stool 20% off
Ruby lounge chair with stool 20% off
LA-Z-boy 107-207 Montana rocker recliner SRP P19,850 **now P18,799**
SIMMONS San Remo chair SRP P35,950 30% off **now P24,988**
LA NOUVA 205 dekad armchair SRP P24,000 30% off **now P16,798**

FALCON highback lounge chair with stool less 20%

officeworld



RAFFLES executive table with side return SRP P28,330 30% off **now P19,798**

ROMANO RO 150 executive table SRP P5,100 20% off **now P3,998**
KW103GA high back swivel chair, fabric SRP P6,450 20% off **now P4,998**
KW 204 GALH high back swivel chair black leather SRP P13,990 20% off **now P10,998**
CF-12A posture chair w/ arms, fabric SRP P4,150 15% off **now P3,525**
RAFFLES conference table SRP P14,158 30% off **now P9,899**

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Glorietta 1, Level 2
867-2350 • 867-4656

TAGUIG
Level 3 Market Market, The Fort
758-2552 • 758-2553

ORTIGAS
Level 3, Robinsons Galleria Expansion Mall
633-8202 • 632-0675

Home Depot
Level 2, Ortigas Home Depot, J. Vargas, Ortigas Center, Pasig
634-8133 • 635-6667

MANDALUYONG
Level 2, Robinsons Pioneer EDSA cor Pioneer St.
747-3147 to 47

MUNTINLUPA
Level 3, New Wing, Alabang Town Center
809-47 77 • 809-3410

Festival Supermall, Level 2
850-3543 • 850-3540

LAS PIÑAS
Level 2, SM Southmall
800-5317 to 18

MANILA
Level 3, Robinsons Place Manila
525-0007 • 525-0031

SAN JUAN
2/F Greenhills Lifestyle Center
Greenhills Shopping Center
705-1391 to 92

CEBU
Level 3, Ayala Center
(032) 232-1082 to 83

Speaker sees federal Mindanao state in '07

COTABATO CITY—A federal setup could again fail Muslim Mindanao as it may not be able to generate enough revenues to sustain government operations and survive self-governance, officials said.

In a recent forum, Speaker Jose de Venecia told local leaders that the planned shift to a federal parliamentary government would transform the Muslim region into a Federal State of Muslim Mindanao (FSMM) by June 2007.

The national government hopes to ease the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's (MILF) rebellion with a Muslim federal state as a political settlement.

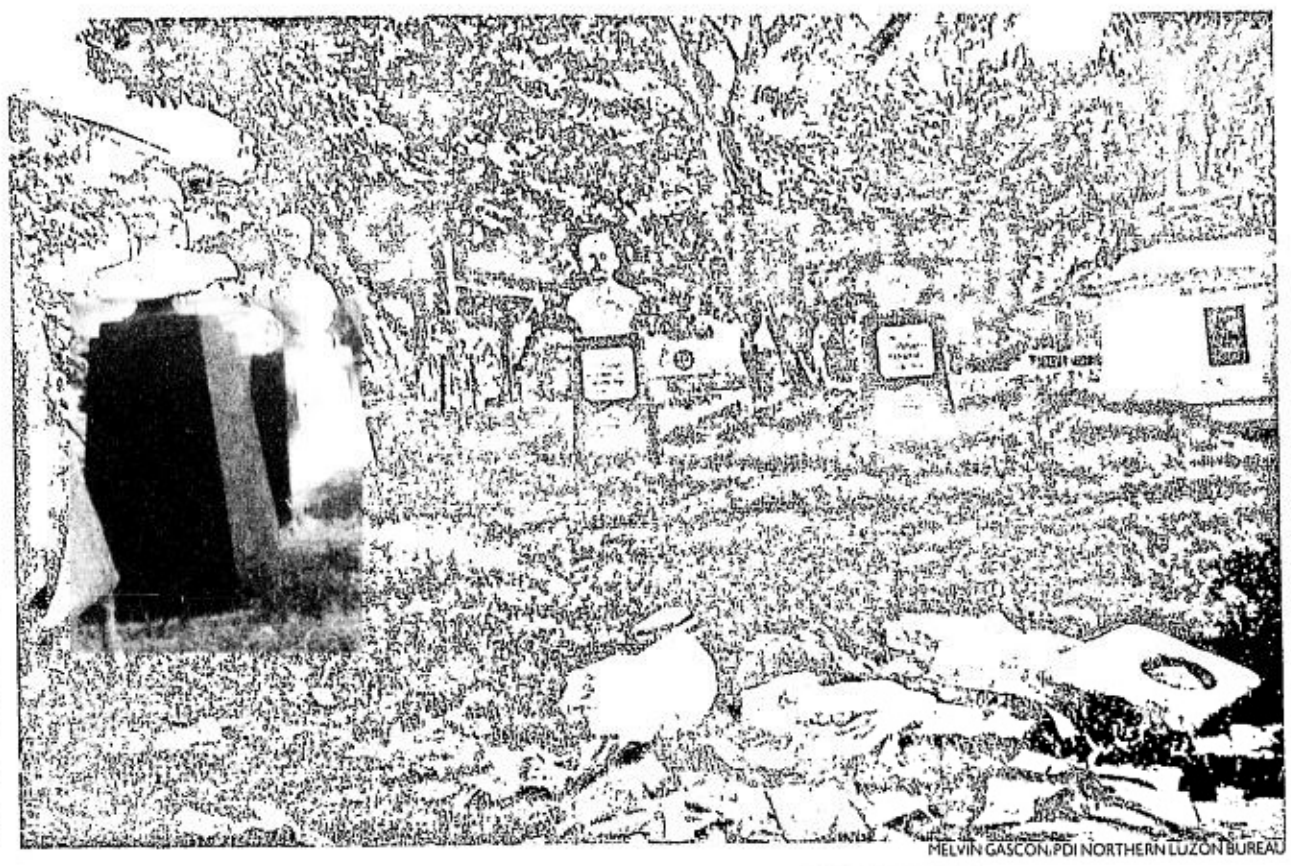
But Muslim officials said the region, which has high poverty incidence and poor statistics on both literacy and child survival rates due to perennial armed conflict and government corruption, could lose over P5 billion in yearly operational fund aid from the national government once it is transformed into a federal state as what De Venecia claimed.

Maguindanao Assemblyman Umbrah Datumanong, a member of the Regional Legislative Assembly of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said that under a federal government, the national government would no longer share its fiscal resources with the region, but it would be the other way around in federal revenue-retention schemes.

"But what there is to retain, when you have given everything (to the national government) ahead of a shift to another form of government? Truly it would be over rough seas to sail ahead (for the region) in the country's journey towards a federal parliamentary government," he said.

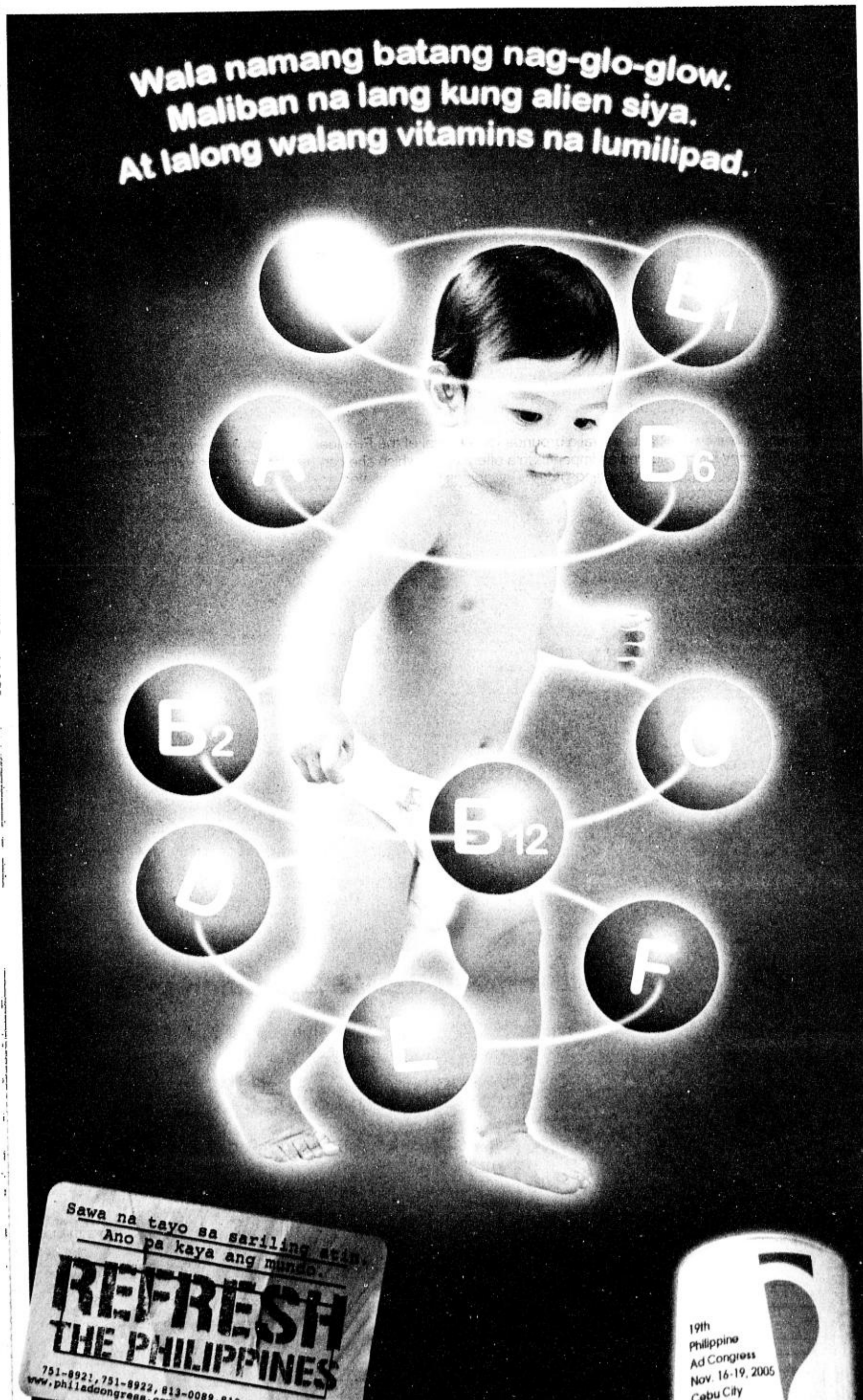
Regional statistics show that ARMM children have suffered the most from the ills of wars.

Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau



MELVIN GASCON/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

DISRESPECT
As the country commemorated National Heroes' Day on Sunday, this public park in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya becomes a virtual dump for illegal sidewalk vendors who have put up stalls in the area.



ROUNDUP

4 killed in ambush

ILAGAN, Isabela—Four people, including two village officials, were shot and killed by armed men on Saturday night in San Guillermo, Isabela, 80 km from this capital town. Senior Supt. Percival Barba, Isabela police director, identified the fatalities as Pascual Gumaru, 55, barangay chair of San Marcelo in Angadanan town; his daughter Mary Jane, 19, and granddaughter Novy Mallabo; and Felimon Cacayan, barangay chair of Calaoagan in San Guillermo. Barba said the victims were on their way home on board a Delica van when men armed with M-16 rifles and .45 cal. pistols fired at them.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

2 soldiers hurt in clash

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Two government troopers were seriously wounded in an encounter with 30 communist rebels at Barangay Sapang Uwak in Porac, Pampanga on Friday. The victims, identified as Sgt. Ephraim Bumagat and Pfc John Dominguez, were airlifted to the V. Luna Medical Center in Quezon City. The clash was the third since last week after government soldiers seized a rebel camp on Hill 290 at the boundary of Pampanga and Zambales.

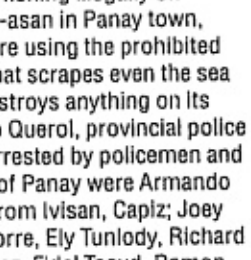
Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Scholar tops dean's list

CITY OF CALAPAN—Freddie Rey Ramirez, a sophomore majoring in English, topped the dean's list of the Divine Word College of Calapan (DWCC) in the first semester. A provincial scholar, Ramirez was able to refund almost P9,000 which he shared with a younger sibling who is also attending school. Ramirez is receiving a full scholarship grant from the DWCC since he graduated valedictorian from the Domingo Yu Chu National High School.

Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

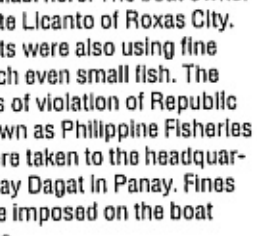
Investors to visit Mindoro



CITY OF CALAPAN—Investors from the Philippine Food Processors and Exporters Organization will arrive here in September to explore the potential of putting up processing centers for Mindoro's major fruit products, like *calamansi* and *dalandan*. According to the agriculture office, about 20 investors will visit the Bansud Ecozone and Socorro and Victoria towns.

Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Training for single parents



CITY OF CALAPAN—The Technology and Livelihood Development Center (TLDC) conducted a four-day livelihood training for single parents from Baco town. The training, handled by Juliet Goce, was focused on fruit processing like making instant *salabat*, pineapple jam, *calamansi* juice concentrate, jelly, *nata de coco* and pineapple juice concentrate. TLDC chair Reynaldo Catibog said the provincial government was willing to allot an initial capital for these programs.

Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Boat impounded

ROXAS CITY—A pumpboat with a crew of 14 men was impounded for fishing illegally off Barangays Pawa and Lat-asan in Panay town, Capiz. The fishermen were using the prohibited "*karas*," a contraption that scrapes even the sea floor to catch fish but destroys anything on its path, said Supt. Cipriano Querol, provincial police director. The suspects arrested by policemen and Bantay Dagat members of Panay were Armando Orbe, the boat captain, from Ivisan, Capiz; Joey Begnosos, Abner dela Torre, Ely Tunlody, Richard de Angel, Jonathan Ibañez, Fidel Tacud, Ramon de Angel, Wilbert Dequito, Rodel Maravilla, Melvin Molino Sr., and three minors. All of them were from Barangay Culasi here. The boat owner was identified as Vicente Licanto of Roxas City. Querol said the suspects were also using fine mesh nets that can catch even small fish. The fishermen face charges of violation of Republic Act No. 8550, also known as Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998. They were taken to the headquarters of Task Force Bantay Dagat in Panay. Fines totaling P200,000 were imposed on the boat owner and the suspects.

Felipe V. Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau

SO THE TRUTH MAY BE KNOWN . . .
WHO'S AFRAID OF THE AMENDED COMPLAINT?

THOSE who would have President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo impeached foist upon us their so-called "Amended Complaint". What in fact is this document? Is it a serious pleading for the impeachment of a president or simply a piece of political propaganda laced with calumny calculated to harass and bring down the President of the Republic through trial by publicity?
What then is the truth? Let us see.

The Amended Complaint
The Amended Complaint itself is procedurally infirm and violates the Constitution on at least two counts. First: it seeks to circumvent the one-year bar rule on initiating impeachment proceedings; and, Second: it seeks to impeach the President for alleged acts that do not constitute impeachable offenses under the Constitution.

First Count: The Amended Complaint violates the one-year bar rule.
The filing of the first Lozano Complaint on June 27, 2005 and its endorsement to and receipt by the Committee on Justice at 4:20 o'clock in the afternoon of July 26, 2005, effectively completed the initiation of the impeachment proceedings against the President and by operation of the Constitution barred the Committee on Justice from acquiring jurisdiction over any other complaint for impeachment against the President. The proponents of the Amended Complaint were aware of this procedural infirmity and thus sought to circumvent it by riding on the Lozano complaint and calling their complaint an "Amended Complaint". But this so-called "Amended Complaint" is in fact a separate and an entirely new complaint. It is not limited to the original "betrayal of trust" theory of the Lozano complaint but introduces new matters and causes of action not raised in the original complaint.

Second Count: The Amended Complaint is based on alleged acts that do not constitute impeachable offenses under the Constitution either because the alleged acts were committed prior to the President's current term of office or because they are outside the jurisdiction of the Committee on Justice and should, therefore, be filed in other bodies or courts against the responsible officials concerned. The President cannot be held directly accountable for their acts.

What are the alleged offenses cited in the Amended Complaint?
In a spirit of transparency and disregarding for the moment its procedural and substantive infirmities, let us examine the specific allegations of the Amended Complaint. It alleges -

1. That President Arroyo undermined the independence of the COMELEC in connection with the May 2004 presidential elections;
2. That President Arroyo directed and/or knowingly allowed the commission of electoral fraud in numerous vote-rich areas;
3. That President Arroyo concealed in her 2001 Statement of Assets and Liabilities ownership of various properties located in the Philippines and overseas and wilfully failed to pay the taxes due thereon;
4. That President Arroyo acquiesced in and provided impunity to the killings of political dissidents or infringed on their freedoms of expression and assembly;
5. That President Arroyo approved the NAIA III and Northrail Contracts that were grossly disadvantageous to the Philippine Government and/or gave unwarranted benefits to herself and/or favored parties;
6. That President Arroyo received jueteng payola in exchange for political protection as well as to bankroll her presidential campaign and bribe officials and rig the results of the May 2004 elections; and
7. That President Arroyo used, acquiesced in or knowingly allowed the use of government offices, agencies and funds immediately before and during the election period in the May 2004 presidential elections.

Are these alleged offenses valid as basis for impeachment?

A) Alleged Prior Acts of the President
Section 2, Article XI of the 1987 Constitution specifically provides that the President may be "removed from office, on impeachment for, and conviction of, culpable violation of the Constitution, treason, bribery, graft and corruption, other high crimes, or betrayal of public trust," while Section 7 states that "judgment in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than removal from office and disqualification to hold any office under the Republic of the Philippines, but the party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to prosecution, trial and punishment according to law."

These Constitutional provisions do not contemplate PRIOR acts as valid grounds for removal of the President in an impeachment proceeding. The President has a term of office and the acts that may be considered as impeachable offenses for which she can be removed from office must necessarily be only those committed during that term. Past impeachment proceedings in the Philippines (those initiated against President Elpidio Quirino, President Diosdado Macapagal, President Ferdinand Marcos and President Joseph Estrada) were all based on acts alleged to have been committed by them during their terms of office. In the United States from whence we borrowed our Constitutional provisions on impeachment, this is the settled rule: a public officer may not be removed or impeached for acts committed before his entry into office.

The allegations in items 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7, above, all involve acts that were supposed to have been committed PRIOR to the current term of President Arroyo. Thus, even without going into the veracity of these charges, they cannot, for this reason alone, be used as grounds for an impeachment proceeding against her.

There's more: the allegations pertaining to the President's supposed concealed properties and her alleged involvement in jueteng payola are old rehashed allegations. They have been the subject of extensive hearings in the Senate and to date not one credible witness has come forward with corroborated evidence to establish the veracity of any of these allegations, indicating clearly their nature as mere innuendoes and malicious imputations.

B) Acts outside of the jurisdiction of the Committee on Justice
The other category includes all those charges that allege the commission by President Arroyo of acts that are either outside the jurisdiction of the Committee on Justice or have been subjected to extensive hearings that yielded no concrete and direct evidence whatsoever against the President.

Take Item 4, President Arroyo's alleged involvement in political offenses. Section 18 of Article XIII of the Constitution is very clear:

> "Section 18. The Commission on Human Rights shall have the following powers and functions:
> (1) Investigate, on its own or on complaint by any party, all forms of human rights violations involving civil and political rights;
> x x x x
> (3) Provide appropriate legal measures for the protection of human rights of all persons within the Philippines x x x."

The jurisdiction over Item 4 is therefore with the Human Rights Commission and not with the Committee on Justice in an impeachment proceeding. Even assuming, for the sake of argument, that some acts violating human rights have in fact been committed by military or police officers, their personal liability must first be established before the Commission on Human Rights in order that appropriate legal charges may be filed against them, but such allegations cannot be extended to the President, let alone used as basis for her impeachment.

Take Item 5, President Arroyo's alleged approval of the NAIA III and Northrail Contracts that are claimed to be disadvantageous to the Philippine Government.

The NAIA III (PIATCO) contract was entered into during the term of President Fidel V. Ramos and amended during the term of President Joseph E. Estrada. President Arroyo was not involved in the approval of the PIATCO contract. In fact, the contract was nullified by the Supreme Court during her term and is now the subject of international arbitration. Why is she being held accountable for it when her predecessors, Presidents Ramos and Estrada, were not even charged on this issue in an impeachment proceeding?

The Northrail Project is part of a Bilateral Agreement between China and the Philippines. The issue raised against the project that the cost per kilometer of railroad track is excessive is a gross and misleading exaggeration because the Northrail is not a single track system but is in fact the first modern double track railway system in the Philippines. Attributing the cost of the project to the railway track portion only, and deliberately omitting the other components of the project such as the construction of train stations, a depot, maintenance yard, communications links, train cars, signaling systems, grade separation at road crossings, retaining walls, major bridges, a viaduct section, and cost of additional rights of way, is a grand deception on the public. Funded by the Government of China, the project when completed will provide the cheapest mass transport service in the country.

The concessional credit facility extended by China for the project carries only an interest rate of 3% per annum over 20 years. This flagship project of President Arroyo is an impeachable offense?

The inclusion of this project as one of the grounds for impeachment has unnecessarily dragged a foreign government into a very partisan political campaign of vilification against the President and constitutes not only an affront to a foreign and friendly ally but also reflects negatively on the government's efforts to attract foreign investments.

CONCLUSION
Impeachment is serious business. It is a congressional prerogative, a power of the legislature to mete out political justice. It must therefore be exercised with maturity and utmost judiciousness and not trivialized with impeachment complaints that merely seek to harass and destroy. Congress most of all must lead in upholding the rule of law.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Abra gov, wife sign covenant to end violence

By Tarra V. Quismundo

TWO LOCAL officials yesterday signed the Abra peace covenant, completing the list of signatories for a peace pact among local chief executives and nongovernment organizations in the province.

Gov. Vicente Valera and his wife, Mayor Zita Valera of the capital town of Bangued, finally agreed to sign through the mediation of Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes. They earlier deferred their decision due to a rift with another local official.

"Only for you, Secretary," said the governor, pounding his chest as a sign of unease before an assembly of Abra's 27 mayors at the National Police Commission (Napolcom) headquarters in Makati City yesterday.

Shortly after, his wife signed the covenant, for the first time placing the couple on the same side as Mayor Cecilia Luna of Lagayan town, who had accused the governor of planning to kill her and her two sons.

Prodded by photographers and cameramen, Luna and the Valeras obliged to shake hands. The two parties likewise agreed to hold a "continuing dialogue" on the criminal case Luna had filed against the governor for an alleged attempt to assassinate her last year.

"I myself only want justice. I believe the governor does, too," said Luna.

Luna and 25 other mayors earlier signed the covenant, a result of almost four months of talks between local officials and the Abra mediation panel.

Abra Rep. Luis Bersamin Jr. also signed the pact.

The government mediation was created four months ago to reconcile the warring politicians, a situation made more volatile by the existence of private armed groups allegedly serving the politicians themselves.

"This is significant because we now have a covenant involving all local chief executives committing themselves to peace and development in Abra, and resolving differences in a peaceful manner," said Reyes.

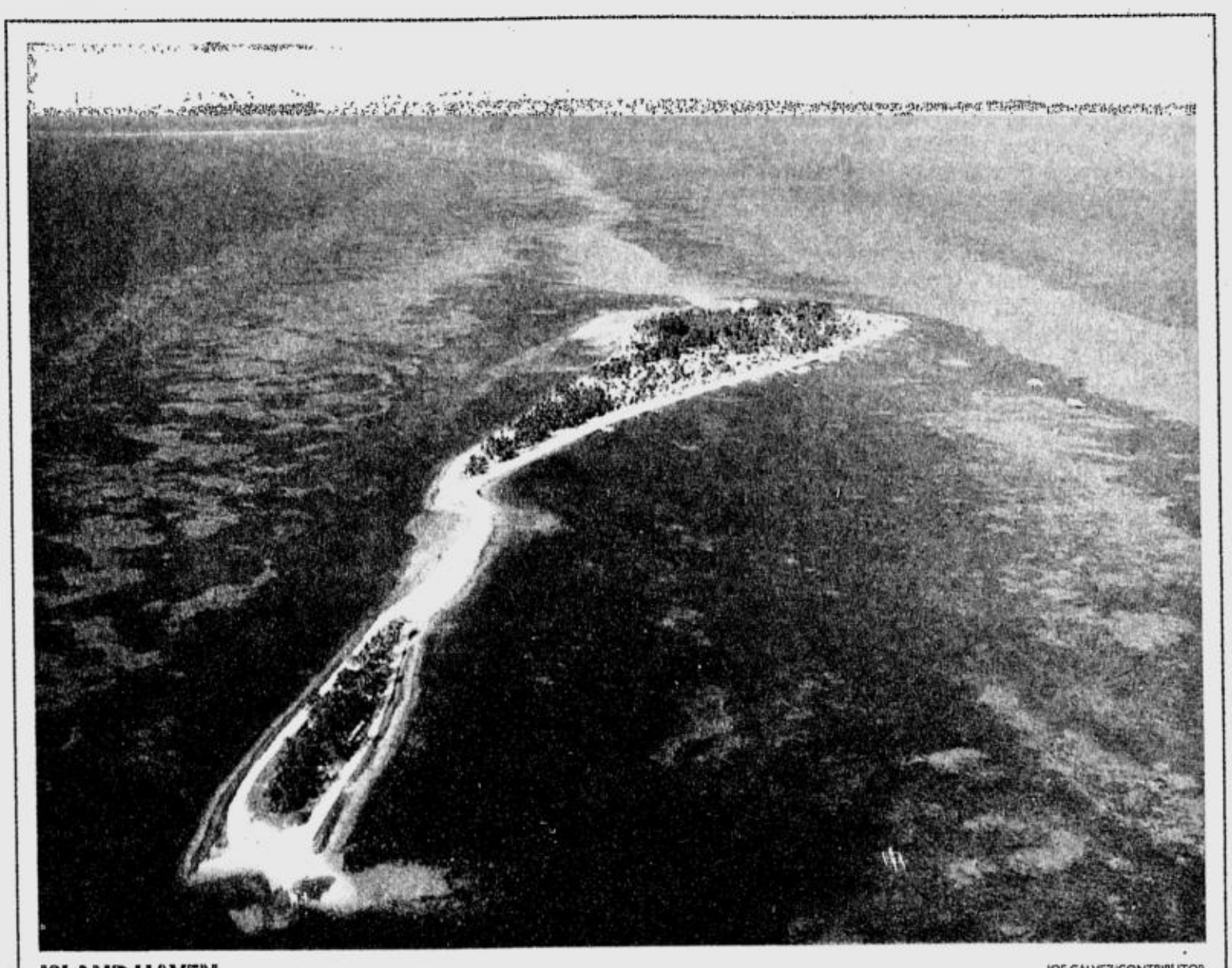
The peace covenant bound the Abra officials to commitments listed down by the mediation panel, on top of which was the recommendation to relieve heads of all national government agencies in the province.

The document also obligated local officials to practice full transparency in governance, and comply with April's suspension of their deputation powers, which used to grant them supervision over police officers assigned in their towns.

The officials were also enjoined to help in the campaign to eradicate private armed groups, crack down on illegal gambling, and pinpoint "other sources of lawlessness" in the province.

The peace pact provides a monitoring of cases of violence, including a prosecution and judicial audit team.

It also sought the replacement of the Army's 41st Infantry Battalion which has been deployed in the province.



ISLAND HAVEN JOE GALVEZ/CONTRIBUTOR

Central Visayas offers many islands to local and foreign tourists, like this spade-shaped islet between Cebu and Bohol, where a small fishing village is isolated by a long stretch of white sandbar. Environmentalists fear oil exploration activities in the Visayas Sea could threaten the protected seascape.

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INQUIRER

INQBOX Question of the Week

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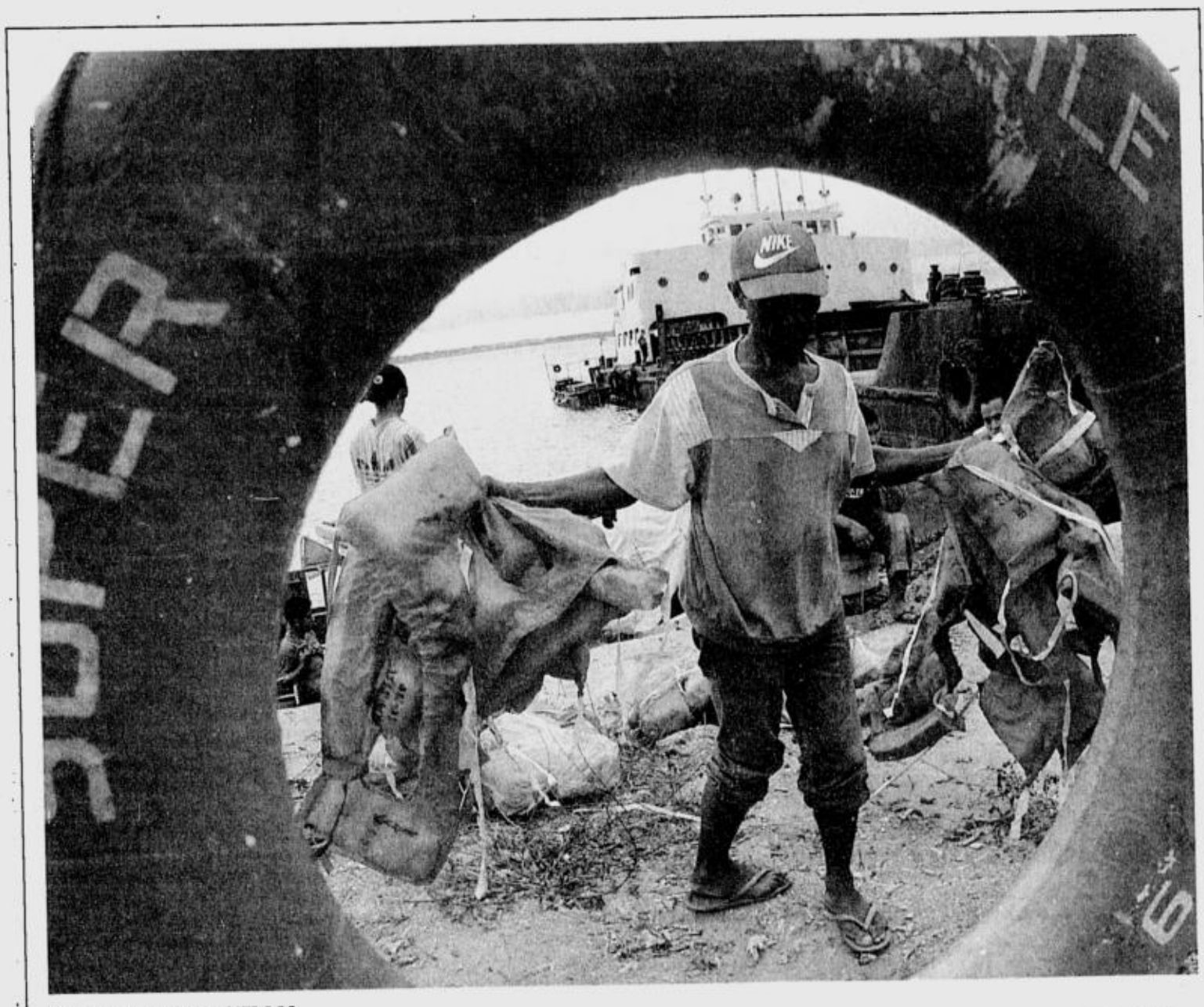

SALVAGE OPERATION
Crew members of the Super Shuttle Ferry 9 retrieve life jackets used by survivors after the vessel capsized off Hagnaya, San Remigio in Cebu on Aug. 25. The ferry was headed for Sta. Fe, Bantayan Island.
TONEE DESPOJO/CDN

MILF says no need for change in form of gov't for peace

COTABATO CITY—Top leaders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) yesterday said the country's form of government need not be changed if the government would consider the communist-led National Democratic Front's 10-point proposal in exchange for an "instant" peace accord to end the 36-year-old insurgency in the country.

While acknowledging that the NDF proposal was "good," MILF vice political affairs chief Ghazali Jaafar said in a telephone interview that the NDF's agenda cutting military spending to provide funds for economic development was impractical.

"In the first place, no country in the world involved in fighting will cut military funding. If the NDF and the Bangsamoro people in Mindanao problem will be addressed, the government need not increase funding for the military," Jaafar said.

He said the NDF's proposal for a "clean and honest" coalition of government would be the "foundation of basic good governance."

"The government even need not change the present form of government to federalism if the entire proposal is addressed," he said.

But Jaafar was quick to add that the MILF was not supporting the NDF agenda.

"Right now, we are busy in preparation for the resumption of our talks with the Philippine government in Kuala Lumpur slated within next month," he added.

Aside from cutting military spending to provide funds for economic development, the NDF proposed the formation of a coalition government with significant representation of workers and peasants; cancellation of foreign debts; and the prosecution of government officials for corruption, treason and human rights violations.

MILF chief negotiator Mohagher Iqbal, in a statement, said NDF chief negotiator Luis Jalandoni's proposal was a "positive development."

"It signaled that the NDF is considering returning to the negotiation," he said.

The NDF is the political wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, whose military arm, the New People's Army, has been included in the list of terrorist groups of the United States.

In August last year, the rebel movement suspended peace talks with the government to protest the government's refusal to lobby for the NPA's removal from the list. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Bureau exec faces charges of dishonesty, falsification

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—A high-ranking official of the Bureau of Local Government and Finance (BLGF) was accused of gross dishonesty and falsification for allegedly faking his credentials to obtain his position.

Orlando Mina, acting BLGF deputy national director and regional director for Cagayan Valley, had claimed he held a college and two postgraduate degrees.

In his affidavit-complaint, Johnny Bacena, a former treasurer of Quezon town, said Mina was not qualified to hold his past and present positions because of his being a college undergraduate.

Bacena sought the immediate suspension of Mina, who supposedly defrauded the government on several occasions when he sought promotion to various positions, and claimed that he was a graduate of a college, masteral and doctoral degrees from two colleges in Santiago City.

Mina said he did not know what Bacena was talking about. "It would be better if I first look at the complaint," he said.

In his complaint, Bacena said Mina started his career in government in 1975 as a clerk at the provincial treasury office of Quirino. He became deputy provincial and municipal treasurer of Maddela and Cabarroguis towns.

He was city treasurer of Palayan in Nueva Ecija from 1987 to 1990 and provincial treasurer of Quirino from 1990 to 1993.

He was promoted as BLGF assistant regional director, a position he held until 2002. In 2003, he was appointed acting BLGF regional director. Since July, he has been regional director and concurrently acting deputy executive director of the BLGF.

Sources at the BLGF office in Tuguegarao City confirmed that Mina was listed in official documents as having graduated with a Bachelor of Science of Commerce degree from Northeastern College in 1979. He was also said to have obtained his Master of Public Administration and Doctor of Public Administration degrees from La Sallette University (LSU) in 2000 and 2002.

But according to a certification issued by Ignacia Lapat, NC registrar, Mina failed to graduate from the school and was credited for 36 units only of his BSC course taken in two semesters in 1977 and 1979.

Dr. Josephine de Quiros, LSU registrar, said Mina was never allowed to graduate from his masteral studies "due to nonsubmission of credentials." *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Jeep fare in W. Visayas up 50 centavos

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has ordered a 50-centavo increase in minimum jeepney fare in Western Visayas.

Under the order, jeepney fare for the first 5 km is P7 from P6.50, and P1 for succeeding kilometers from 70 centavos.

The order was issued by the LTFRB regional office on Aug. 17 and concurred in by its three-member board headed by Ma. Elena Bautista on Aug. 24.

The increases will take effect immediately in the region's six provinces—Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Guimaras, Antique, Capiz and Aklan.

LTFRB regional director Porfirio Clavel Jr. said the order granted the appeal of transport organizations which earlier asked for an additional increase after the jeepney fare was raised to P6.50 from P5.50 in May.

Among the groups was the Federation of Bacolod City Drivers Associations (Febacda), whose chair, Elizabeth Katalbas, said the latest increase would enable them to cope with the nonstop rise in fuel costs.

While they welcomed the new fare rates, transport groups in the region said the increase would "only be eaten up" by the continued oil price increase.

Jun Abellon, spokesperson of the Pinagisang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Operator Nationwide (Piston) on Panay Island, said the government should instead impose price controls and immediately repeal the Oil Deregulation Law which allows oil companies to set oil prices.

"The drivers and operators have become 'collectors' for these oil companies who continue to earn billions of pesos in profits," Abellon told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Soaring world prices of oil, hovering from $65 to $70 per barrel, have increased the price of diesel fuel to P31.60 per liter.

Abellon said the high cost of fuel had reduced the daily earnings of drivers to about P150 per day. Drivers ply their route by an average of 20 trips per month.

Clavel said jeepney drivers could charge the new rates after payment of P520 for a new fare matrix and an additional P50 per copy of the certification.

He said operators who had earlier paid the new fare matrix might not be required to pay the P520 fee.

The certification is required for the more than 10,000 jeepney units in the region.

Clavel said the operators who would fail to secure the new fare matrix by the end of the month would face sanctions from the Land Transportation Office.

Those who fail to beat the deadline will be fined P500 for the first offense and P1,000 for the second. For succeeding offenses, the punishment is suspension or cancellation of franchises, said Clavel.

Bill on correcting flaws in bases conversion filed

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Sen. Richard Gordon has filed a bill to correct the deficiency of the Base Conversion Law (Republic Act 7227) in the aspect of tax and duties exemptions.

Recently, the Supreme Court upheld the exemptions for investors at the Subic Bay Freeport and nullified these for investors at the Clark Special Economic Zone, Camp John Hay in Baguio City, Poro Point in La Union and other special economic zones created under RA 7227.

Senate Bill No. 2098 sought to amend RA 7227 by introducing a provision granting the same fiscal incentives to other ecozones, said Gordon, chair of the Senate committee on government corporations and public enterprises.

The court's decisions disallowing the privileges in Clark and Camp John Hay raised the "red flag to the world that rules in the country are changed in the middle of the game," Gordon said in a speech before some 300 Rotarians here on Saturday.

The court's rulings in Clark and Camp John Hay were issued in July 2005 and October 2003, respectively.

Court ruling

In its recent decision, the court said that "while Section 12 of RA 7227 expressly provides for the grant of incentives to the Subic zone, it fails to make any similar grant in favor of other economic zones, including Clark."

Section 15 of RA 7227 authorized the President to create economic zones in and around former bases of the United States in Pampanga and Tarlac (Clark Air Base); in San Fernando City, La Union (Wallace Air Station in Poro Point); in Baguio City (Camp John Hay); in the towns of Morong, Hermosa, Dinalupihan in Bataan; and in Castillejos and San Marcelino in Zambales.

The debate over the fiscal incentives provision of RA 7227, which Congress passed in 1992, came as the government entered the 13th year of its base conversion work.

The state-owned Clark Development Corp. has filed a motion for reconsideration before the Supreme Court in a bid to protect some 300 investors.

Threats

Some Clark investors have threatened to relocate to China, stop expansion plans or cut down on their number of workers to be able to cope with additional tax obligations.

Gordon said SB 2098 proposed to extend to RA 7227 the incentives guaranteed under the Special Economic Zone Act of 1995 (RA 7916).

According to him, the same taxation system of 5-percent final tax on gross income was proposed to be applied.

Other fiscal incentives are also given under Presidential Decree No. 66, which created the Export Processing Zone Authority, as well as those provided by the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987 and the Export Development Act of 1994.

The bill, according to Gordon, also wanted to grant free port status and the same incentives to Poro Point. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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Special Events Schedule

AUGUST 31, 2005 Wednesday

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room A
Forum on "The Leadership Challenge" Speaker: Mr. Dennis S. Yeosiano by University of the Philippines Library Science Alumni Association (UPLSAA)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Activity Area 1
Creating a Personalized Grafix Pencil Pouch for Kids by The Thought Factory (TTF)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Playstreet Story Telling (with admission fee)

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Basic Hair Cutting by Bagong Henerasyon Foundation, Inc. (BHFI)

10:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.
Function Room B
Launching of Reader's Digest English Reading Program and English Learning Books by A-Z Direct Marketing, Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Symposium on the Style of Filipinisms Indigenous Materials by Philippine Association of Academic Research Libraries (PAARL)

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Playstreet Clay Molding and Arts & Crafts (With admission fee)

1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Transfer Printing on a CoinKey Tray (TTF)

2:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
Function Room B
"Computer Aided Instruction and Interactive Learning: How to conduct a Virtual Lab Class" by IDC Infotech, Inc.

2:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Storytelling Session and Origami Workshop for Kids by Illusso Pambata (MP)

4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
WTC Lobby
Opening Ceremonies

SEPTEMBER 1, 2005 Thursday

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room B
Forum on "Promoting Effective Reading Skills: A Challenge to Librarians, Teachers and Students" by Philippine Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science (PATLIS) & The Book Talk Society of the Philippines (BTSP)

10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.
WTC Lobby
Seminar and Book Launching: New Age Learning by Pearson Education, Resource Speaker: Ms. Barbara Field by C & E Publishing, Inc.

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Activity Area 1
Preserving Memories On Photo Tiles (TTF)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Playstreet Arts & Crafts (with admission fee)

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Reflexology Workshop (BHFI)

10:30 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room A
Seminar: NBDB Efforts Towards Quality Filipino Books by National Book Development Board

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Forum on Innovations and Strategy: "The Risk and Choice in Shaping User Centered Libraries" Speaker: Mrs. Lourdes T. David by Association of Special Libraries of the Philippines (ASLP)

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Playstreet Story Telling and Arts & Crafts (with admission fee)

1:30 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
WTC Lobby
Drawing Workshop for Kids with Mr. Noel Cabangon and Mr. Robert Alejandro by Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan (INK)

1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Kiddie Art on Tiles (TTF)

2:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Storytelling Session and Pupped Fish-Making Workshop (MP)

3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Symposium on Copyright Law by Publishers' Representatives Organization of the Philippines (PROP)

3:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Function Room A
Product Launching: National Geographic Kids Products by Asia Pacific Circulation Exponents, Inc.

4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
WTC Lobby
Fun Hats Rubber Foam Workshop (INK)

4:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Basic Animation by Mowelfund Film Institute (MFI)

5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Basic Hair Cutting (BHFI)

5:30 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Seminar on "Direct Marketing (DM) Back to Basic and Beyond (Design for Booksellers)- Part I by Book Development Association of the Philippines (BDAP)

SEPTEMBER 2, 2005 Friday

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room A
Forum on "Environmental Health". Speaker: Ms. Clarchen Gutierrez by Medical and Health Librarians Association of the Philippines (MAHLAP)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room B
Forum on "Ethical Issues and Concerns in Collection and Development Management" by Philippine Booksellers Association Inc. & Philippine Librarians Association, Inc.

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Activity Area 1
Designing Souvenirs for Weddings, Birthdays, and Other Occasions (TTF)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Playstreet Clay Molding (with admission fee)

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Basic Hair Cutting (BHFI)

10:30 A.M. - 12:00 NN
WTC Lobby
The Making of Techniques in Digital Illustration (INK)

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Symposium: Can a Reproduction Rights Organization (RRO) Curb Illegal Photocopying in the Philippines? by The International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organization & The Philippine Reproduction Rights Organization

1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Discover and Explore: "A Must Classroom Reality in Science Literacy" A product seminar/workshop for Discovery Channel School. Resource Speaker: Charmaine Nicdao-Ramos, by Verve Multi Media, Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Playstreet Story Telling and Arts & Crafts (with admission fee)

1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Turning Ordinary Prints into Canvas Works of Art (TTF)

2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
WTC Lobby
Balloon Art Workshop by Lollipop Safety Balloons Center (LSBC)
Admission Fee: Php 25.00

2:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Storytelling Session and Paper Bag Puppets-Making Workshop (MP)

4:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
Function Room B
Seminar on "Introduction to Singapore's Elementary Education Curriculum and Textbooks" by Edotech International, Inc.

4:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Basic Animation (MFI)

5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
WTC Lobby
Portfolio Show (INK)

5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Reflexology Workshop (BHFI)

5:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Seminar on "Direct Marketing (DM) Back to Basic and Beyond (Design for Booksellers)- Part 2 (BDAP)

6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
The Makati Skyline 2005 Grand Book Launch by OMF Literature, Inc.

SEPTEMBER 3, 2005 Saturday

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room A
Book Launching: Learning to Live and Love, Learning to Love, Love @ Sex Pag-Usapan Natin, Educational Guidance in Human Love: The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality by Word & Life Publication

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Activity Area 1
The Children's Library Story Telling Activity

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Activity Area 2
Stone Printing: Paperweights and Desk Signs (TTF)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Playstreet Story Telling and Bubble Demo (with admission fee)

10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.
WTC Lobby
Science Fun Factory by Sinmahang Pisika ng Pilipinas
Admission Fee: Php 25.00

1:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.
Activity Area 1
The Children's Library Storytelling Activity

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Lego Early Childhood/HCA Seminar by Felta Multi-Media, Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Book Launching: Nobela at Mga Maiking Kuwento ni Edgar Reyes, Introduction to Economic Botany, Pythopharmacology-Phytotherapy by Dietmar J. Rummel, Language Proficiency Training for Call Centers by C & E Publishing, Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Crystal Lamination: Trinket Boxes (TTF)

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Playstreet Clay Molding and Arts & Crafts (with admission fee)

3:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Lego Robotics Demonstration by Felta Multi-Media, Inc.

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Diabetics Lecture by New Era Publications International Aps

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Book Launching: ANI 31 Metaphors of Love (Talinghaga ng Pasig), GROOVY: The Colors of Manila Bay in DVD by Cultural Center of the Philippines

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Hands-on-Activity (Discovery Channel Interactive) by Verve Multi Media, Inc.

5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Reflexology Workshop (BHFI)

5:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Basic Hair Cutting (BHFI)

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Book Launching of "LEGACY: One Man to Another: Exhortations to the Men of Today from Over 50 Respected Christian Leaders and Influencers" by Church Strengthening Ministry

SEPTEMBER 4, 2005 Sunday

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Activity Area 1
Crystallized Photo Frames and Magnetic Message Holders (TTF)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Playstreet Story Telling and Bubble Demo (with admission fee)

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Basic Hair Cutting (BHFI)

10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.
WTC Lobby
Science Fun Factory by Samahang Pisika ng Pilipinas
Admission Fee: Php 25

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Print Lifting Images to Cotton Drink Coasters/Mats (TTF)

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Playstreet Clay Modeling, Arts & Crafts (with admission fee)

2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Purpose of Life, Resurrection and Hereafter in Islam According to Quran and Risale-I Nur by Eternal Publications Trading

2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
"Meditations & Music Reflections" Authors accompanied by invited musicians by Church Strengthening Ministry

4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
The Makati Skyline National Book Awards by Manila Critics Circle (by invitation only)

4:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Basic Animation (MFI)

5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Reflexology Workshop (BHFI)

Co-presented by: ABS-CBN, STUDIO 23, K-BARKADA mo!

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FOGGY WORKOUT TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
A Philippine Military Academy cadet continues his daily routine of running through thick fog, a regular aftermath of the rains that come every August in Baguio City.

4,000 hectares of Danding land given in Negros

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—More than 4,000 hectares of land owned by business tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco in Negros Occidental have been distributed to 1,756 farmer-beneficiaries through a joint venture corporation.

Southern Negros Joint Venture Corp. (SNJVC), which is co-owned by the workers and the family of Cojuangco, took over the operations of the farms covering 4,654 has that had been subjected to land reform.

The farms cover the cities of Himamaylan, La Carlota and Bago, and the towns of Hinigaran, La Castellana, Pontevedra, San Enrique and Isabela.

Cojuangco and the ECJ Farmworkers Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Multi-Purpose Cooperative signed a joint venture agreement wherein both are co-owners of SNJVC, which will run the farms that are planted to mango, *durian*, *pili* and other high-value crops.

Under the agreement, the workers will assign the use of the land to SNJVC for 20 years, renewable for another 20 years, said Wilfredo Peñaflor, legal consultant of the joint venture.

Cojuangco and his group of investors, on the other hand, will contribute capital for maintenance and development of the farms, technology, facilities and equipment, and technical and managerial expertise, Peñaflor said.

He said Cojuangco gave an initial P3 million in equity to the beneficiaries. The amount represents 30 percent of the initial P10-million capitalization of SNJVC to run the farms.

Last Friday, Cojuangco turned over the certificates of stock and equity to the 1,756 land reform beneficiaries in a low-key ceremony at the Gallera de Pontevedra grounds in Pontevedra, 48 km southwest of Bacolod.

Among those who attended were Cojuangco's wife Gretchen; his son, Negros Occidental Rep. Carlos Cojuangco (fifth district); grandchildren Claudia and Jayme; their friends and the workers.

Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal officiated Mass after the distribution of certificates.

Representative Cojuangco urged the beneficiaries to learn how to manage their new resources well and to make full use of the opportunities that come their way.

According to the summary distributed during the turnover rites, the land was valued by the Department of Agrarian Reform at P350,000 per hectare or a total of P1.63 billion, but this was given by Cojuangco to the workers at P1 per hectare.

SNJVC has a board of directors composed of 12 members—four from the land reform beneficiaries and eight from the Cojuangco group.

Power co-op warns of higher rates due to taxes

ROXAS CITY—The Capiz Electric Cooperative (Capelco) has warned that it will pass on to its consumers its P10,179,877 in delinquent real property taxes should the provincial government insist on collecting the amount.

Engineer Edgar Diaz, Capelco general manager, said the cooperative had no other means to pay the taxes and had to pass on the burden to consumers.

Capelco was established in 1971 in Barangay Timpas, Panitan town. It now services 93,000 consumers in the province and charges P6.05 per kilowatt-hour.

When the Local Government Code was implemented in 1991, all cooperatives not registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) were mandated to pay real property taxes.

Provincial treasurer Gualberto Bernas III claimed that Capelco had not paid its real property taxes to the municipal government of Panitan since 1992.

Provincial administrator Dante Bermejo explained that the electric cooperative ignored the tax amnesty program offered by the provincial government last year.

He said the program was extended for another three months early this year, but it was still ignored by Capelco.

Engineer Jovencio Villagracia, Capelco Institutional Development Support Services Department (IDSSD) manager, said the cooperative was still negotiating with the provincial government on the unpaid taxes.

He said that although Capelco had been registered with the CDA since 1992, it had not renewed its registration in 1997 due to certain lapses.

The payment of real property taxes should start in 1997 and not in 1992, Villagracia contended. *Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau*

FVR says largest dam in Luzon has enough water for 3 cities

BAGUIO CITY—The largest dam in Luzon can supply potable water to three major cities in northern Luzon at far cheaper costs, according to studies cited by former President Fidel V. Ramos.

Ramos, during a visit here last week, said the San Roque multipurpose dam had sufficient water for the cities of Baguio, Dagupan (Pangasinan) and San Fernando (La Union), based on hydrogeological studies conducted by the defunct Agno River Basin Development Commission (ARBDC).

Ramos brought up the dam's potential to Baguio officials after being told about their opposition to a bulk water supply contract that the Baguio Water District's board of directors recently approved.

The water division of Benguet Corp. won the supply contract and was issued a notice of award on Aug. 16, said lawyer Antonio Espiritu, BWD board chair, when he spoke to Ramos here on Friday last week.

Councilor Edilberto Tenefrancia criticized the supply project, saying that the BWD had decided to pass on to consumers its purchase cost of P39.99 per cubic meter for a daily supply of 50,000 cu m of water.

Water crisis

Ramos, a member of the World Water Commission, said the country should face the potable water crisis as the country's population would grow to 120 million in 25 years.

"We have alternative sources of energy, but [the country has] no alternative sources of water," he said.

Ramos said the National Water Resources Board already acknowledged the high depletion rate of aquifers in some of the country's major cities.

Baguio has been restricted to drawing a little over 1.4 million cu m of water from its aquifer due to rapid increase in population, while seawater has slowly penetrated Dagupan's aquifer, Ramos said.

Ateneo study

These cities will benefit from the San Roque dam reservoir, which could be treated and pumped back to urban and rural households at far cheaper costs because of the dam's nearness to Baguio, Dagupan and San Fernando.

According to an Ateneo de Manila University case study made by Luisa Fernan and James Paul Esguerra, "the reservoir ... will have a surface area of 12.8 square kilometers and a total capacity of 850 mcm (one mcm is equivalent to 1,000 circular mils or 506,704 square micrometers)."

The study points out that the dam can store up to 530 mcm of run-off river water, which is equivalent to holding "floods of magnitudes of five-year recurrence period and less."

Ramos said the country had yet to exploit the water delivered yearly by an average of 20 typhoons.

When he was still President, he said, he pushed the San Roque project because of its potential of domestic water supply.

Ramos said the ARBDC's terminal report, which former presidential advisers Benjamin de Leon and Joseph Alabanza had released when President Macapagal-Arroyo abolished their agency, looked at the dam's potential.

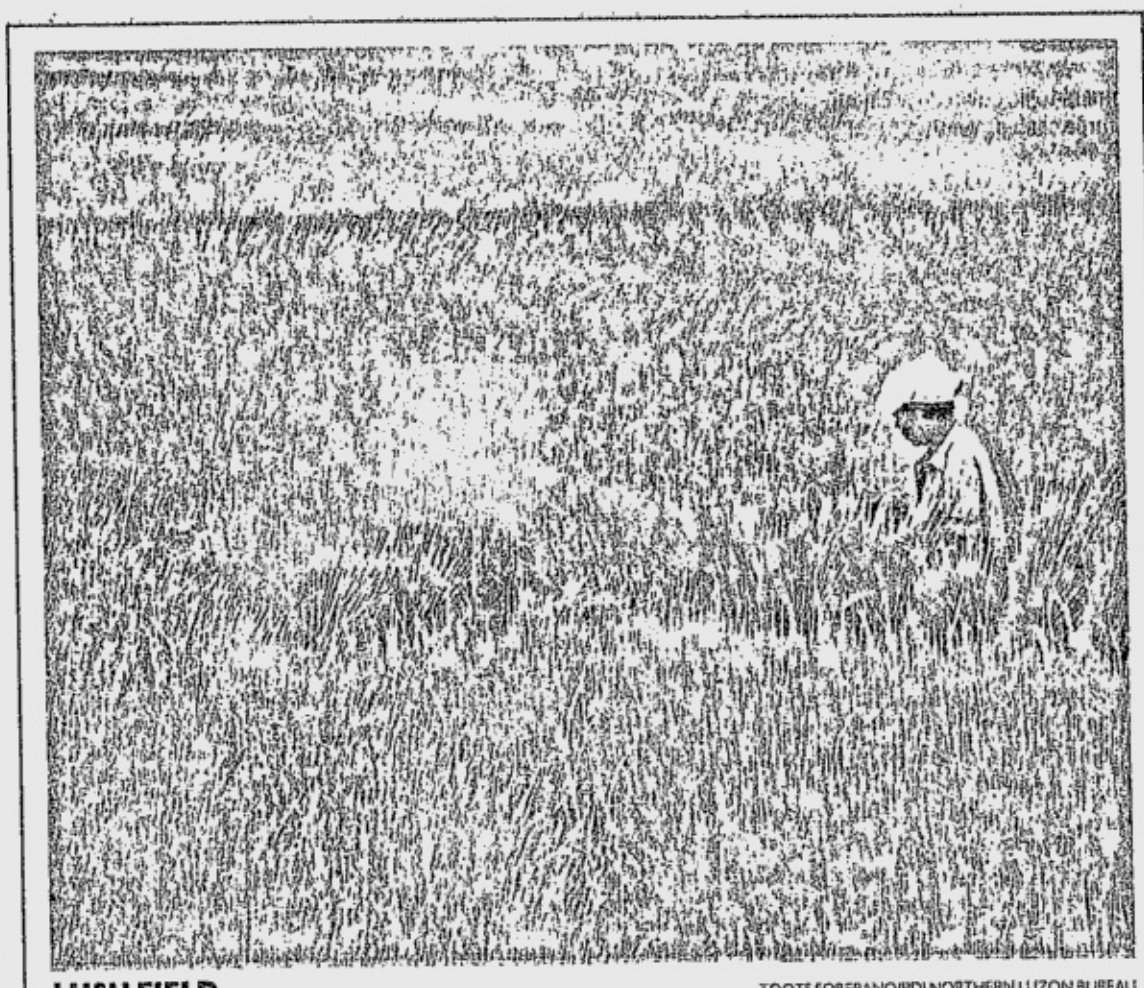
Considered the first genuine independent power producer (IPP), San Roque Power Corp. built and now manages a 200-meter dam for the 345-megawatt hydroelectric plant that straddles San Manuel town in Pangasinan and Itogon town in Benguet.

1st BOT project

The $1.19-billion project was introduced in 1996 as the first build-operate-and-transfer (BOT) scheme to mix power generation with irrigation, domestic water distribution and flood control.

But it relied on a government subsidy that used a $400-million loan from the Japan Export-Import Bank, now known as the Japan Bank for International Cooperation. The dam represents one of the three biggest IPP projects that have indebted the government.

The government has yet to finance the irrigation and water quality components of the project, which would regulate water releases and control flooding in Pangasinan. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



LUSH FIELD TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Farmers in Asingan, Pangasinan take advantage of continuous rains to start planting rice.

AFP plans troop pullout from Boracay

ILOILO CITY—The military plans to pull out its troops from Boracay in Aklan for deployment to areas where communist rebels are active.

Lt. Col. Jefferson Omandam, spokesperson of the Armed Forces Central Command (Centcom) based in Cebu City, said the planned pullout of Army troops was part of Centcom's focus on internal security operations against New People's Army rebels.

Centcom covers the whole of the Visayas and Masbate. The Army's 3rd Infantry Division and the 8th Infantry Division are currently deployed in the command's area of operations.

"We believe our presence is not necessary anymore (in Boracay) because the local police forces can handle the situation," Omandam told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

A platoon of about 30 soldiers under the 47th Infantry Battalion is now stationed on the world-famous resort island to augment the Boracay Special Protection Unit, which is under the Police Regional Office in Western Visayas.

The soldiers were deployed to the island at the height of terror attacks and after foreigners were kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf bandit group in Dos Palmas resort in Palawan and Sipadan in Malaysia.

Omandam said the soldiers would be deployed "where they are needed most." *Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

Lifestyle check on DENR-Caraga execs urged

BUTUAN CITY—An official of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) here has called on Malacañang to conduct a lifestyle check on environment officials in Caraga following the reported resurgence of illegal logging activities in the region.

Domingo Pareja, NCIP regional director, said it was time for the government to initiate a lifestyle check to combat alleged widespread corruption in the environment agency.

Pareja aired the call after DENR regional director Benjamin Tumaliaun publicly admitted that illegal logging operations were back in the region, five months after President Macapagal-Arroyo lifted the ban on logging in March.

According to Pareja, it was impossible for illegal loggers to operate without the involvement of corrupt environment officials.

He said the illegal trade mushroomed in upland "*lumad*" areas because of anomalous and irregular logging permits issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"Corruption is to be blamed. DENR officials are making money out of logging and transport permits," Pareja said. He, however, refused to name the alleged corrupt DENR officials. *Franklin M. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Fewer helicopter rides for chief of PNP

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—The Philippine National Police chief is on an energy-saving mode.

On Wednesday, Director General Arturo Lomibao traveled here by car, and did not use a helicopter. That's one way, he said, of reducing expenses on jet fuel.

"We're also limiting our use of air-conditioned facilities and doing away with unnecessary travels," Lomibao said in line with the PNP's efforts to comply with Administrative Order No. 126 that sets out energy conservation measures.

In his case, traveling would be mostly by land if his destinations were near Metro Manila.

Although the cost-cutting means are in place, the PNP, he said, would have to tighten its belt next year because its 2006 budget is only P35 billion.

Lomibao said the amount was "not enough."

He said P30 billion had been earmarked for salaries and allowances while the rest would go to operations.

"This is barely adequate for the present requirements of the PNP. So we will need more than this so we can carry out our transformation program," Lomibao told the INQUIRER here on Wednesday.

Despite the amount, he said the PNP would try not to sacrifice its programs.

"It's only that we expect more efficiency and effectiveness in terms of operations if we will be able to have more resources," Lomibao said.

The PNP needs 45,000 more personnel to reach the ideal force of 160,000 members nationwide.

He said handguns were in short supply by 18,000 and 500 of the 1,530 police stations did not have patrol vehicles. At least 80 percent of the ground units do not have equipment for communication and investigation, he said.

Of the 100 priority police stations, 10 are being built using proceeds of trust funds that are complemented by 30-50 percent in local government counterpart funds, he said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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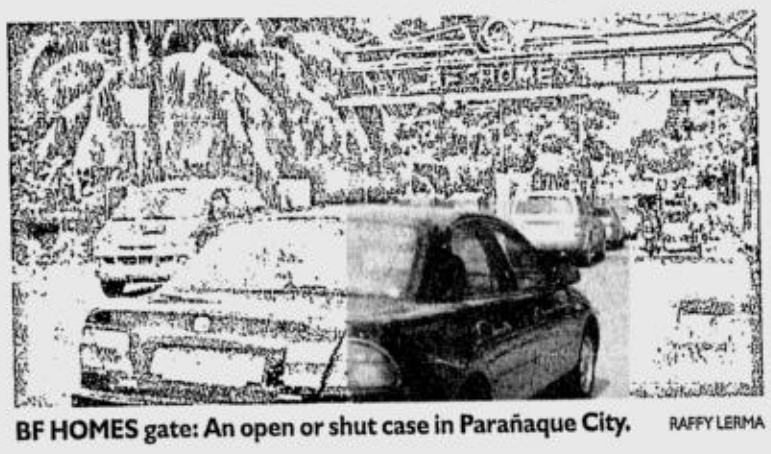
Bernabe given 1 week to close BF gates



BF HOMES gate: An open or shut case in Parañaque City. RAFFY LERMA

By Jocelyn R. Uy

RESIDENTS of BF Homes in Parañaque City gave Mayor Florencio Bernabe one week to "restore their privacy," Celso Reyes, president of the United BF Homes Associations Inc. (UBFHAI), told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The deadline is Tuesday next week.

Last Friday evening, Bernabe and a team of policemen opened to the public the major gates of the posh subdivision in accordance with a city ordinance.

The move was done without consultation with homeowners, claimed Reyes.

In 1997, Parañaque passed City Ordinance No. 97-08, reclassifying the subdivision's six-kilometer Aguirre and El Grande Avenues commercial zones.

The city passed Ordinance No. 00-15 in 2000, opening to the public roads in subdivisions linked to major city thoroughfares.

"The opening of the gates, even if legal, was not acceptable," Reyes said. The mayor, he added, should have conducted a referendum first.

Reyes belied Bernabe's claim that the majority of residents supported the action.

The UBFHAI president said 85 percent of homeowners had opposed the move.

He added that on Saturday, homeowners would take to the streets in protest.

BF Homes, which extends to Las Piñas and Muntinlupa City, is the biggest subdivision in the country with some 10,000 homeowners. It has 46 schools, including Southville, an international school,

Reyes said they would file administrative and criminal charges against Bernabe.

The mayor said the homeowners should "reclaim" their main gates the legal way.

"They should have legal documents from the court," he said.

He said the city ordinance had been validated by the court.

METROBRIEFS

Tough luck for helpful neighbor

HE only wanted to help. But air-con technician Ramon Valloces, 29, ended up being shot three times when he tried to fire at three unidentified men who robbed a beauty salon in Mandaluyong City the other night. A stray bullet also hit bystander Richard Mansera, police said. The robbers managed to take more than P110,000 worth of cell phones, jewelry and money from employees and customers of the Victor Ortega Beauty Salon in Barangay New Zaniga. Police said the three robbers barged inside the salon about 9 p.m. Sunday, pointed their pistols at the victims and announced a holdup. Valloces, an employee at a nearby car repair shop, who witnessed the robbery in progress, grabbed the .38 caliber revolver of their security guard from a drawer, and tried to stop the robbers. But one of the robbers managed to fire his gun first, hitting Valloces three times. A stray bullet also hit Mansera, who was inside the car repair shop during the incident. The robbers then boarded a passing passenger jeep. SPO2 Danilo Quintana, the first policeman to respond, tailed the robbers. Upon reaching Lopez Street, the robbers transferred to a white Toyota Corolla Taxi that went in the direction of Shaw Boulevard. But Quintana lost sight of the robbers when they reached Barangay Kapitolyo in Pasig City. Valloces and Mansera were brought to the Mandaluyong Medical Center for treatment. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

Gone in 4 minutes

IT took only minutes for robbers to empty the cash drawers of a drugstore in Muntinlupa City on Sunday night. At around 8:45 p.m., a few minutes before a Mercury Drugstore branch in Barangay Bayanan was about to close, five unidentified men in black stormed the drugstore and declared a holdup, SPO1 Rey Quizon told the INQUIRER. One of the suspects seized the firearm of the drugstore's security guard, Lino Aveni, while another ordered the drugstore's six employees and three customers to lie down on the floor. One of their companions proceeded to empty three cash drawers containing the store's income for the day. The suspects fled on board a white car with plate number TVT-491, and a brand new red motorcycle with conduction sticker 3312. The motorcycle was allegedly forcibly taken from a customer. "It took them four minutes to get away with the money," Quizon said. The management, however, was unable to tell police how much money was lost to the robbers. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

Lolita Bautista Orqueza; 68

LOLITA Bautista Orqueza of Disimpit, Isabela, peacefully joined her Creator last Aug. 26 at the age of 68. She is survived by her children Daisy, Nelson, and Leonard. Her body lies at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment has been set today after the 9 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

MMDA links up with bike groups for lane routes

By Tarra V. Quismundo

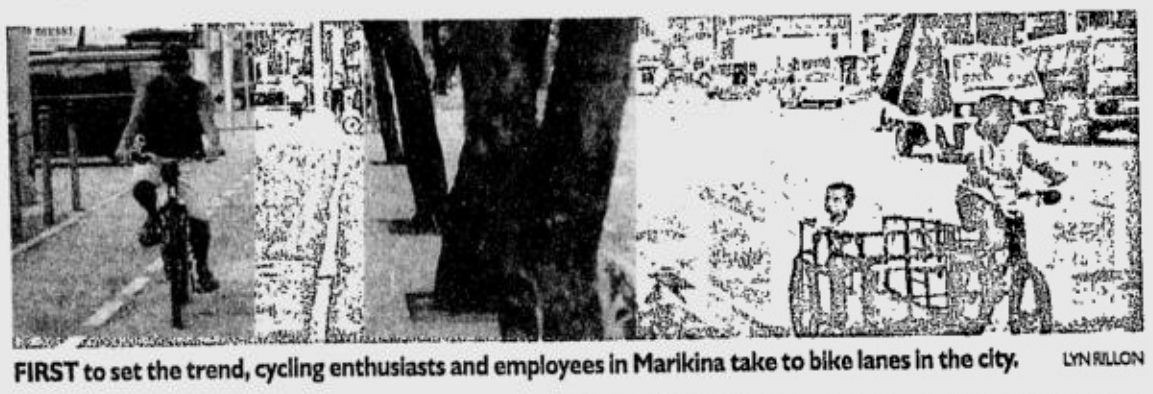
THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) is set to meet with different bike groups tomorrow to exchange ideas regarding mapping out a viable interconnected bikeway for Metro Manila.

At least five bike groups had been invited to the meeting to talk about suggested bike routes for the agency's Metro Bike and Pedal Ways project, said MMDA general manager Robert Nacianceno.

"We want to identify the routes for the bike lanes because some of the groups' members bike to work and have already established their own routes. We'd like to know where these are," he said.

The integrated bike and pedestrian lanes project is aimed at providing safe bike lanes and walkways for Metro Manila's bikers. The MMDA project also seeks to encourage Metro commuters to bike or walk short distances, sparing them from hefty transportation costs, apart from introducing a healthy lifestyle alternative.

Those invited were the Quezon City Cycling Club, the Greenhills Cycling Club, the Diosdado Macapagal Highway Cycling Club, the Alabang Cycling Club, and the Philippine Biking Association. "But even others that we were unable to invite are welcome, as long as they support the bike and pedal ways project," Nacianceno added. The use of secondary roads as bikeways had been suggested earlier.



FIRST to set the trend, cycling enthusiasts and employees in Marikina take to bike lanes in the city. LYN RILLON

PDI employees join bikers on the road

By Charles E. Buban

WITH rising fuel prices and worsening traffic, biking to work has become an increasingly attractive option for a growing number of INQUIRER employees.

INQUIRER Corporate Planning fieldman Roy Adeva was one of the early converts when he started riding his bike to work five years ago.

Adeva bikes every day from his home in Kamias, Quezon City, about 14 km away from the INQUIRER office at Chino Roces avenue in Makati City (via G. Araneta avenue and Gen. Kalentong City) where the INQUIRER main office is located.

"Using the G. Araneta avenue (Quezon City) and Gen. Kalentong (Mandaluyong City) route, it takes me 30 minutes to get to the office," he said. "Compare this to the one and a half hours of commute, or four rides, and shelling out P40 in the process."

Adeva's bike routine also helps keep him fit when he competes in triathlon and cycling competitions.

"But you don't have to be an athlete to appreciate biking to work," says INQUIRER Special Projects editor Aries Espinosa who heads the INQUIRER Cycling Club. The group has about 10 active members, and still growing.

"But one should check his or her fitness level with a doctor first before taking to the road" suggests Espinosa. He adds that any type of bike will do for the commute as long as one feels comfortable with it. "Whether its a mountain bike or a racer, just make sure your bike is as fit as you are. Have the bike checked at a local bike shop, and learn how to repair a flat, fix a chain and inspect the brake pads," Espinosa said.

Personal safety should be a top priority for both beginner and veteran bike commuter.

"One can reduce risks in various ways like learning safe riding skills, selecting safer routes by choosing designated bike lanes or a route where traffic is lighter. Also remember to wear a helmet, use colorful attire, and reflectors and lights at night," Adeva added.

Having a bike buddy also helps. "It is safer to ride as a pair or even as a group since you are a more formidable force on the road, and that's important in case of an emergency," says Espinosa.

Adeva is hopeful, that as more and more people to bike to work, it would mean the easing of traffic congestion in the Metro, less pollution, and more healthy people.

So far, of the biking club's 10 members, only Adeva and janitor Rex Baltazar bike to work everyday. Other members, like driver Benjie Labay and advertising material coordinator Gelly Badocdoc, usually take their bikes on weekends or during holidays. Espinosa, who lives in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, is still planning his route.

8 injured in clash of rival garbage groups; strike on 4th day

By DJ Yap and Jocelyn R. Uy

EIGHT persons were hurt when members of opposing unions of a garbage transport company clashed yesterday at the picket line in Quezon City.

Some 100 members of Ren Transport Employees Association (RTEA) on three garbage trucks went to the company's main office on Banlat Road in Tandang Sora before noon, purportedly to get their salaries.

They were barred by members of the Samahan ng mga Manggagawa sa Ren Transport-Association of Democratic Labor Organizations, who had been on strike for four days now.

Both Smart-Adlo and RTEA claim to be the legitimate union of the Ren Transport Corp. that services San Juan town and the cities of Caloocan, Malabon and Muntinlupa.

Smart-Adlo workers reportedly threw rocks at the trucks, injuring seven persons who sustained cuts and scratches, said RTEA president Arnel de Quiroz.

But Smart-Adlo president Nestor Fulminar said they were forced to do so, as the trucks traveled at high speed, seemingly intent on running them down.

Fulminar also alleged RTEA workers threatened them with improvised shotguns ("*sumpak*").

De Quiroz said it was actually Smart-Adlo members who were armed.

Police arrived to prevent further violence. They were later joined by Special Weapons and Tactics agents.

Talipapa police station 3 deputy station commander Zaldy Antonio said they would stay in the area until negotiations were over.

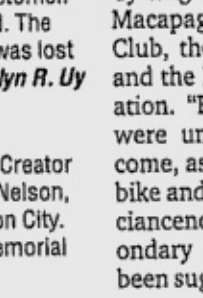
Strikers barricaded Ren's garages in Quezon City, Muntinlupa and Montalban, Rizal.

The seven injured members of RTEA were brought to the hospital yesterday afternoon, said De Quiroz.

"Smart-Adlo did not want us to get our salaries so they threw stones at us, injuring some of my colleagues," he added. The rocks also shattered the windshields of their trucks, said De Quiroz, adding that what happened "was plain hooliganism and gangsterism."

He said RTEA would not be bullied and intimidated by by what he called the "minority union." He said RTEA was the legitimate union.

Maliksi didn't go to casino, says casino official



ON TARGET *Ramon Tulfo*

JOSE L. Tulio, senior branch manager of the Casino Filipino at the Heritage Hotel in Pasay City, writes to deny that Cavite Gov. Erineo "Ayong" Maliksi played at their casino.

Here's Tulio's letter in full:

"Dear Mr. Tulfo:

"We admire your efforts to bring to light certain irregularities in the government service to help introduce reforms in our society.

"Just as we read your column regularly with much interest, we however would like to correct certain facts in the Aug. 20, 2005 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer. In your column 'On Target,' it was mentioned that Cavite Gov. Erineo 'Ayong' Maliksi played and lost about P16.8 million in our casino at Heritage Hotel last June and July.

"We would like to set the record straight that in fairness, Gov. Ayong Maliksi had not played in our casino, even during such inclusive period.

"Thank you for your crusading ways.

Very truly yours,
(signed)
Jose L. Tulio
Senior Branch Manager"

* * *

Mr. Tulio, I didn't say definitely that Governor Maliksi lost P16.5 million at your casino.

I arrived at the P16.5 figure based on what my sources told me that Maliksi lost every time he went to the Heritage Hotel casino, which was three times in a week for the June-July period.

My sources said Maliksi lost from P700,000 to P800,000 every time he went to the casino. To get a conservative figure, I multiplied P700,000 by three, for the number of times a week the governor played at your casino.

I arrived at the P2.1 million figure for the thrice weekly visits of the governor in your casino; P8.4 million, for the four weeks in a month; and P16.8 million for the two months he had gone to the casino.

That was an estimate based on the P700,000 supposedly Maliksi lost at the Heritage casino. It could be more if the P800,000 figure was used.

I stand by my report on Maliksi's visits to the Heritage Hotel casino for the June-July period.

My sources are apolitical, meaning they don't have any politics at all. They were not driven by politics to tell on Maliksi. All of them are not from Cavite.

Mr. Tulio, do you mean you don't know the very important persons who play in your casino?

When Maliksi played at your casino he was always allegedly accompanied by five to six bodyguards who waited outside the Palace room. That's a place for VIP gamblers. The sight of bodyguards caused quite a stir among the other guests.

These are the very same sources who told me that Makati Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado bet and lost heavily in your casino.

Mercado met with me and admitted he did play at the Heritage casino. He said he has no other vice except gambling. I admire Mercado for his candor.

* * *

To prove to Mr. Tulio that my sources are telling the truth, I will, from now on in this space, mention the names of the top government officials who play at the Heritage Hotel Casino, as well as in other casinos.

That way, I would be fair to Maliksi and Mercado because they're not the only ones who gamble at the casinos.

INQUIRER Platinum Quiz

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 1985 20 PLATINUM ANNIVERSARY

Find the answer to the question in the highlighted letters above. Highlighted letters may be used more than once. Text in your answer to 29768* for SMART, Globe, and Sun Cellular subscribers and get a chance to win in the weekly or grand draws!

*To join, initially send PDI<space>20<space>answer<space>name/address/age/gender to 29768. Ex.: PDI 20 ANSWER Jonah Imperial/#1 Paco St., Makati/22/F. For succeeding answers, the registered subscriber simply sends PDI<space>20<space>answer to 29768. Each entry sent is P2.50. Each participant is allowed a maximum of 3 entries per day.

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Grand Prize: One (1) Winner – P 200,000 in Cash
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See print ads and flyers for complete details.

INQUIRER

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1. **Via SMS**
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   b. **For prepaid:** The Mall->Mall Assistant->My Account->Prepaid->BUY IDD->Top5 100

*Note: For postpaid subscriber purchases via SMS or The Mall, **IDD Top 5** load will be charged separately from the Monthly Service Fee. Prepaid subscriber purchases will be automatically deducted from the regular load in your account.*

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- Key in *220# followed by the 14-digit number string then the # sign (Ensure that there are no spaces between characters)
- Press **SEND**
- A text message will display the updated load balance.

Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 4895 Series of 2005.

SUN CELLULAR PREPAID

WHAT'S INSIDE

Baculi out of crucial game vs Mapua /A26

De Guzman leads 5-gold romp by RP gymnasts /A26

Safin withdraws due to hurting knee /A27

NBC five trounces S'pore for win No.2 /A27

'Scrap SEAG caging if RP is out'

By Musong R. Castillo

"IF we don't get to play, why stage basketball at all?"

Former Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit offered this view in the light of the continuing cage controversy which is threatening to leave the Philippines without a team in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

"Let's not give another country the chance to win the gold medal that is surely ours," he told the INQUIRER.

Dayrit was asked to interpret certain rules of the International Olympic Committee regarding the staging of an event where the host is not represented.

He said the continued recognition by the international basketball federation (Fiba) of the POC-expelled Basketball Association of the Philippines gives only the BAP the sole authority to host basketball in the SEAG.

"We are very sure that the POC won't allow that," Dayrit said.

The former POC chief still believes, though, everything can still be ironed out.

"The ideal scenario remains to be the Fiba lifting the suspension (on the Philippines) and the country being able to play," Dayrit said. "But they (POC and BAP) would have to start negotiations somewhere."

Meanwhile, BAP head Jose "Joey" Lina yesterday said he might seek the help of the International Olympic Committee to settle the organization's dispute with the POC.

"We are prepared to go to the IOC or the court of arbitration in sports or any entity to solve the problem with the POC," Lina told the Kapihan sa Manila forum yesterday.

Lina also said he has not lost hope that POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco would meet with him to discuss the fate of the BAP despite the latter being reportedly irked by Lina's defiance.

Cojuangco had said that Lina should appeal to the POC general assembly, which voted for the expulsion, and not to him.

Lina's wish might just get a boost as the latter's son-in-law, Pasig Rep. Robert "Dodot" Jaworski, Jr., yesterday said he would relay Lina's request to the POC chief.

"I'm sure he's more than willing to discuss this," said Jaworski, husband of Cojuangco's daughter Mikee, in the same forum.

BRUNEI MVP: Barangay Ginebra's Jayjay Helterbrand. ROGER MARGALLO

Natl's ready for Asia's best–Reyes

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE team is ready to take on all-comers on the Asian basketball scene, head coach Vincent "Chot" Reyes declared yesterday.

"This team is ready and we will definitely compete well against the strongest teams in Asia," said Reyes after the Nationals arrived from Brunei where they captured the 5th Shell Rimula Cup title on Sunday.

Reyes said that with three international stints tucked under their belts, the PBA-backed Nationals now have what it takes to earn a return ticket to the world basketball championships.

But the RP team is out of the coming Fiba-Asia basketball championships in Doha, Qatar, as a result of a Fiba (International Basketball Federation) ban imposed on the country following the expulsion of the Basketball Association of the Philippines from the Philippine Olympic Committee.

The Doha caging is the qualifier for the world championships in Saitama, Japan, next year. Set to start on Sept. 8, the cagefest rewards the top two teams with automatic slots to the world championship.

"We're disappointed but not discouraged," said Reyes. "I hope our basketball leaders could settle the issue for Philippine basketball.

"We want to be in the Fiba-Asia championships, but if the suspension is meant to be an eye-opener, I guess it's a bitter pill that we have to swallow."

Based on the team's last three international stints, Reyes said, his boys are now ready to do battle against Asian powerhouses China, Korea, Lebanon and Qatar.

"The program is working according to schedule," he said. "The players now understand the international game and the chemistry of the team is peaking at the right time."

The PBA-backed cagers kicked off its international stint starting with the Global Hoops Summit last month where the Filipinos were ranged against top-caliber ballclubs in the United States.

The Nationals won twice in the Global Hoops and then copped third place in the Jones Cup in Taipei before bagging the crown in the Shell Rimula Cup against the Alaska Aces in Brunei.

"Our victory in Brunei is the escalation of the team's improvement through the months," said Reyes, who has 40 players, at least 30 of them amateurs, in the national training pool.

"We might be out of the Fiba-Asia championships but the team will strive to get better as we move on."

HOME ARE THE CHAMPS: Members of the RP-SMB quintet, including head coach Chot Reyes (ninth from left) and acting team manager Robert Non, can't hide their joy after arriving at the NAIA yesterday. ROGER MARGALLO

Netters Mamiit, Taino give Uzbekistan tourney a miss

23rd SEA Games

CECIL Mamiit and Eric Taino, the Filipino-Americans recruited by the Philippine Tennis Association to spearhead the country's bid in the coming Games, failed to advance to the main draw of the US Open recently. This after the duo had sacrificed stints in an Uzbekistan event aimed at preparing them for the SEAG. Mamiit, who campaigned in the ATP Tour and had some success against such big names as Andre Agassi, and Taino said they are not available to play in the Sept. 3 tourney.

***

THE NATIONAL fencers scheduled to leave for China soon for training may have to cool their heels in Manila in the meantime. The holding of the Chinese National Games in the same venue in Shanghai where the Filipinos are supposed to train has put the national fencers' departure on hold. Fencing officials are waiting for the availability of venues in Guandong province in early October where the Filipinos hope to stay and train before the Nov. 27 to Dec. 5 SEAG.

***

RANKING officials of the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee are praying that the congressmen and senators who have pledged to contribute cash for the holding of the Games will call the Philsoc offices anytime soon. Who are they? Sen. Lito Lapid is one.

Musong R. Castillo

BIG SENDOFF: PLDT and Smart Communications chair Manuel V. Pangilinan (center) and Philippine Badminton Association executive vice president Edgardo Aglipay (in yellow shirt) join the Smart-sponsored Philippine men's and women's badminton teams that will see action in the 2005 Chinese Taipei Satellite Badminton Championships scheduled to fire off tomorrow in Taipei. The Nationals are using their stint in the tough tournament to prepare for the Southeast Asian Games in November. See story on A26. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Baculi to miss crucial game versus Mapua

By Jasmine W. Payo

GAMES TOMORROW
(*Cuneta Astrodome*)
11:30 a.m.—Letran vs SSC (Jrs)
2 p.m.—Letran vs SSC (Srs)
4 p.m.—PCU vs Mapua (Srs)

THE PHILIPPINE Christian U Dolphins hit another rocky stretch in their title defense in the NCAA basketball tournament.

Coach Junel Baculi was slapped with a one-game suspension yesterday for his unsportsmanlike conduct during the Dolphins' 75-81 loss against the San Sebastian Stags last Friday.

Thus, the Dolphins will be without their mentor when they battle the third-running Mapua Cardinals tomorrow for the No. 2 semifinal slot and the twice-to-beat advantage that goes with it.

The mercurial mentor was caught on television flashing a dirty finger after Dolphins forward Carlos Cecilia was charged with an offensive foul late in the third quarter of the game with SSC.

"We decided that he also needs to submit a letter of apology because it was seen on national television," said Fr. Vic Calvo, chair of the NCAA management committee. "(His action) was in contrast with the values formation we're emphasizing in sports. Another repetition means we have to ban him."

Only the Letran Knights (11-1) have secured the twice-to-beat advantage in the Final Four.

The Dolphins (9-3) and the Cardinals (8-4) are in a tight race for the remaining semifinal bonus. Even the Stags (7-5), who completed the Final Four cast last Friday, still have a chance to forge a playoff for the second spot.

Meanwhile, the University of Perpetual Help Altas wrapped up the season with a 63-55 triumph over the St. Benilde Blazers for a fifth-place finish at 6-8. Veterans Khiel Misa and Vladymir Joe teamed up for 32 points.

The Blazers settled for sixth at 5-9, while the San Beda Lions finished at seventh (4-10) after slipping past tailender Jose Rizal U Bombers, 57-56.

San Beda, though, is still pinning its title hopes in junior play. The Cubs routed the Light Bombers, 83-64, for the solo lead at 10-2. The Greenies drubbed the Altalettes, 82-42, for a 3-9 record.

The scores:

First Game (Srs)

SAN BEDA 57—Paterno 12, Tecson 10, Gamalinda 9, Menor 7, Antonio 4, Arbole 4, Taganas 2, Angeles 2, Tirona 0, Cruz 0, Aljamal 0, Timonera 0, Maggay 0.

JRU 56—Mañiego 18, Dedicatoria 8, Natividad 8, Jorge 7, Fenequito 5, Magtahao 4, Reyes 4, Japson 2.

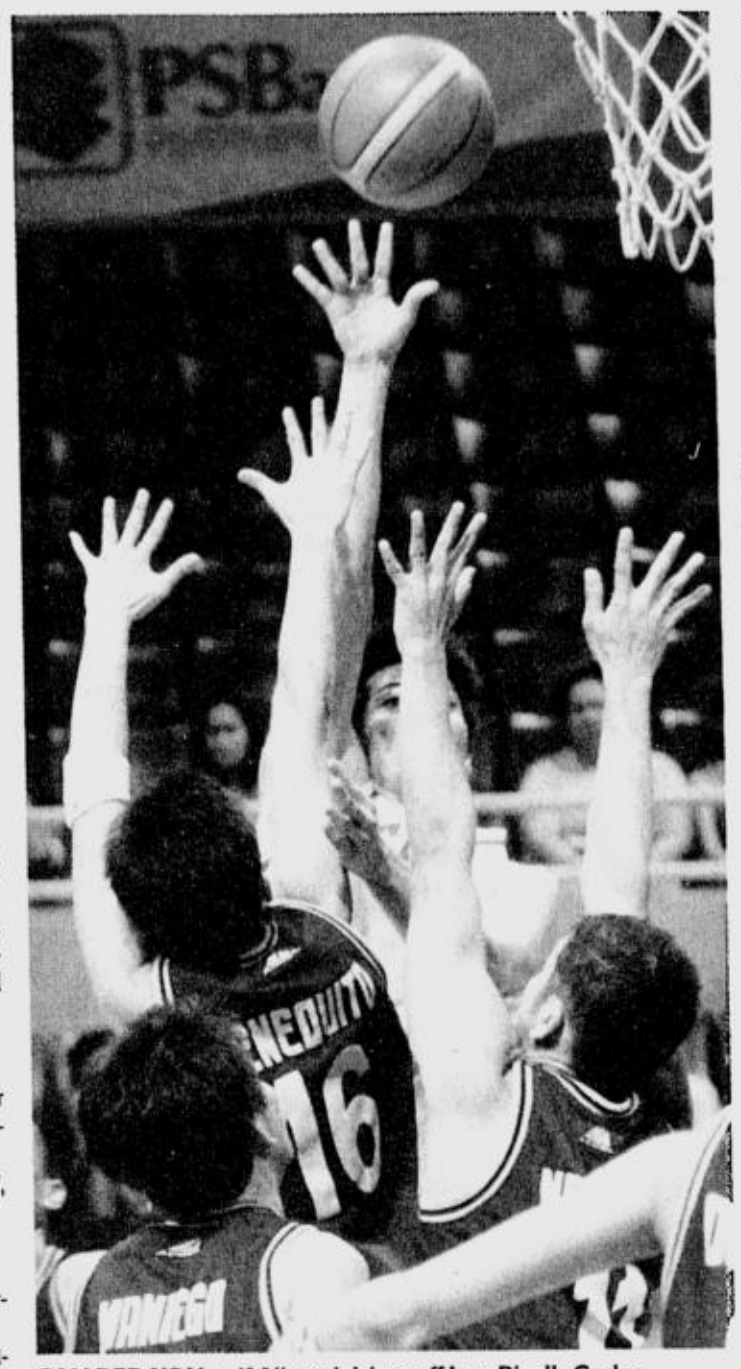
Quarters: 14-13, 30-22, 45-41, 57-56

Second Game (Srs)

PERPETUAL 63—Misa 19, Joe 13, Apor 10, Balboa 6, Refuerzo 6, Manalang 5, Racho 2, Manuel 2, Bauzon 0, Reyes 0.

BENILDE 55—Manding 10, Cabatu 10, Morial 8, Sagad 7, Trillo 6, Urra 4, Robles 3, Orbeta 2, Good 1, Porras 0, Glang 0.

Quarters: 15-15, 31-22, 50-39, 63-55



SAN BEDA'S Yousif Aljamal drives off Jose Rizal's Carlos Fenequito and Chester Natividad in yesterday's game. RYAN LIM

De Guzman leads 5-gold romp by RP gymnasts

FILIPINO gymnasts captured five gold medals, three by Cintamoni de Guzman, in the 1st Rajiv Gandhi International Gymnastics competition recently in Hyderabad, India, to underscore their readiness for the forthcoming 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

The six gymnasts also brought home seven silver and three bronze medals in the competition held Aug. 18-21 and drew entries from Malaysia, several East European countries and host India.

The women's artistic gymnastics squad won the bulk of the gold medals, with De Guzman, Caissa Saguisag and Christa Santos combining their skills to win the team gold.

De Guzman also topped the individual all-around event and the uneven bars while Saguisag clinched the gold in the vault competition.

Roel Ramirez won the fifth gold for the Philippine team in the pommel horse, and won a silver each in the vault, high bar and floor exercises.

Saguisag also took the silver behind De Guzman in the individual all-around, while Santos grabbed the silver in the vault and uneven bars to complete a 1-2 finish for the Filipinos.

Juvic banners Samsung cast

BAGUIO—Is Juvic Pagunsan too good for everyone?

The country's foremost amateur shotmaker is up for a credibility test as he takes on fellow national training pool members and a horde of other standouts in the third elimination leg of the Samsung Amateur Tour at Camp John Hay today.

Of the 11 members of the national pool, only two failed to make the trip to Baguio.

Erwin Vinluan found no reason to play since he already had won the second leg at the Pueblo de Oro in Cagayan de Oro recently, while Artemio Murakami is trying to qualify for the Japan Tour.

Jun Bernis is the defending leg champion but he will have his hands full against a cast that also includes reigning Samsung Tour grand finals winner Kim Chang Hoi and jungolfer Tonton Asistio.

Also on tap are 36-hole battles for various handicap divisions in men's and ladies' play.

A tough format that allows only the top 10 players after 36 holes to qualify for the final two rounds will put a lot of pressure on the 32 players entered in the event also sponsored by Tokyo Tokyo, KZG, Microtel, Coppertone Sport, Srixon, Philippine Airlines as the official carrier, Sunbolt, Rudy Project, C-Lium Fiber and Sports Plus. Media partners are Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3, 89.9, 99.5 RT, 103.5 K-Lite and Killer Bee.

STUNNING UPSET: Benjo Mendoza (left) of Speedeffex takes the bend ahead of defending champion Jolet Jao in the 2005 Shell Advance Superbikes Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit recently. Mendoza went on to take the checkered flag in the leg sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association and sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Aeromed, Kilton Motors, Denso and MOF Company.

Pinoy shuttlers get Taiwan exposure courtesy of MVP

By Marc Anthony Reyes

INSPIRED by a higher international ranking, Kennie and Kennevic Asuncion will lead a 16-man Philippine contingent to the 2005 Chinese Taipei Satellite badminton championships set Aug. 31 to Sept. 4 in Douliu, Yulin, Taiwan.

With PLDT and Smart chair and CEO Manny V. Pangilinan as benefactor, the first full RP delegation to an overseas stint hopes to gain vital experience needed for their campaign in the Southeast Asian Games set here in November.

Philippine Badminton Association vice president Edgardo Aglipay thanked Pangilinan for bankrolling the country's stint during a press conference at the Manila Polo Club, where the Nationals were presented.

"This is an extension of our effort in the recent MVP Cup," said Pangilinan. "The team really needs support because there's no point competing against each other. It's always good playing against players who are better than you are. It's like enlarging the gene pool."

Vanessa Tanco, the Yonex Philippine Open and JVC Open champion, is a top prospect for a medal in the women's singles and doubles.

The other Taiwan campaigners are four-time UAAP MVP Lloyd Escoses, JVC Open doubles runner-up Owen Lopez, former RP Open champs Ian Piencenaves and Arolas Amahit Jr., former collegiate stars Paula Obanana, Mark Alvin Natividad, Jaime Junio, Christopher Flores, Marlon Villarin, Rodel Bartolome, Irene Chiu, Karyn Velez and Amada Carpo.

Cabagnot Case, Part II

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

A READER called up to defend Alex Cabagnot.

"Any player can refuse an offer he doesn't want," he said. "Cabagnot does not want the offer of Sta. Lucia so it was his right to refuse it."

I told him I agree wholeheartedly. If I don't want something myself, I'll refuse it, too.

However, I told him that in the case at hand, while Alex Cabagnot can refuse the Sta. Lucia offer any time, he can do so but with grim prospects of facing consequences—including possibly severe ones if, in the eyes of the PBA board and Commissioner Noli Eala, malice had accompanied Cabagnot's negotiations with Sta. Lucia.

OK first, the facts again.

Sta. Lucia drafted Cabagnot on Aug. 14. The evening of that day, Buddy Encarnado, Sta. Lucia manager, had dinner with Cabagnot and Charlie Dy, Cabagnot's agent.

The following day, Aug. 15, Dy submitted to Encarnado a three-year contract for Cabagnot to play for Sta. Lucia.

Among others, the contract assured Cabagnot a basic monthly salary of P150,000 for the first year, P225,000 (second year) and P337,500 (third year).

That same day, Aug. 15, Encarnado answered with a Playing Contract for Cabagnot, accepting en toto, among other things, the figures in the three-year contract proposed by Dy.

The other salient points presented by Dy that were readily accepted by Encarnado were: a P37,500 bonus for Cabagnot if Sta. Lucia entered the quarterfinals in the first year of the contract, another P37,500 for the semifinals, P150,000 for the finals and P225,000 for the championship.

For the second year, the bonus is P56,250 for the quarterfinals, P56,250 semifinals, P225,000 finals and P337,500 championship.

For the third year, the bonus is P84,375 for the quarterfinals, P84,375 semifinals, P337,500 finals and P506,250 championship.

The won-game allowances are P4,000 in the eliminations and quarterfinals, P6,000 semifinals and P8,000 championship.

The special incentives are P250,000 for an MVP award, P100,000 Mythical Five, P50,000 Mythical 10, P150,000 Conference Best Player, P100,000 All Defensive Team, P100,000 Sportsmanship Award, P100,000 Most Improved Player and P100,000 Rookie of the Year.

The contract assures a 50-percent salary increase per year, with the increase measured on the basis of statistical records of all point guards after the season issued by the PBA statistical division; to wit: Cabagnot must be first and second for a 50-percent increase of the previous year's salary, 3rd and 4th 45 percent, 5th and 6th 40 percent, 7th and 8th 35 percent and 9th and below 30 percent.

On Aug. 20, Encarnado signed the contract on behalf of Sta. Lucia.

On Aug. 21, Dy signed the contract on behalf of Cabagnot.

In short, all provisions had been met to consummate the Cabagnot contract under existing PBA rules.

Then, all too suddenly, we hear of Cabagnot flying to Hawaii, apparently walking away from it all. Before he left—the rumor mill said he'd finish his studies in Honolulu—Cabagnot left no word whatsoever to explain his action. *Ni* ha. *Ni* ho.

If you say there's nothing wrong with what Cabagnot did, I guess it will also be perfectly all right if Manny Pacquiao just walks away from his scheduled fight with Hector Velasquez on Sept. 10 without saying anything. *Ni* ha. *Ni* ho.

You say Sta. Lucia didn't lose any money, so why the whining from Buddy Encarnado?

Hey, man doesn't live by money alone.

Hey, rules had been broken here and, definitely, somebody's got to be punished or the PBA must cease existing.

For sure, not Buddy, who negotiated in good faith.

Charlie Dy? Alex Cabagnot? Both of them?

You don't need the Supreme Court for an opinion on this, do you?

Anyway, I plead guilty to being a bit cruel on Cabagnot when I called him a "shamtee" instead of a draftee.

I'm sorry, but I'll take that back only when Cabagnot resurfaces and explains his side of the matter.

Truth, if not honor, has been sacrificed too many times on the altar of cross-my-heart.

Are we to become witness to another charade, at this crucial time yet when the PBA is at the crossroads?

VICTORIOUS: Members of the winning '90s Team show their trophy after topping the San Beda Law Golf Club's "War of the Decades" at the Forest Hills Country Club in Antipolo City recently. The team is skippered by Arwin Bahia and managed by Froi Castelo, Rep. Oyie Umali and Rep. Joseph Santiago. The squad's Harry Paltongan emerged as the individual champion in the tournament that had Ferdie Santos as overall sponsor.

PowerSmash Open fires off Oct. 8

POWERSMASH, one of the country's finest badminton facilities, will hold the 2005 PowerSmash Open on Oct. 8 and 9 at the venue at 2227 Pasong Tamo, Makati City. Organizers said the tournament, open to all badminton enthusiasts, offers cash prizes, trophies, medals and gift items for the winners in the men's and ladies' doubles in seven categories (classes Open, and A to F). Varsity players, professional trainers and ex-national players who have not been part of the RP team for five years are eligible to vie in the Open category. Leveling sessions will be on Sept. 11 and 18. For inquiries, call 8928024 or 8938299. PowerSmash has 16 first-class courts (eight taraflex mats on 16 wood-sprung courts), bleachers that seat 700, secured free parking and hot and cold showers.

108 fights today at Cainta Coliseum

A ONE-ON-ONE duel between Rizal and Metro Manila cockers kicks off its first of 108 fights at 12 noon today in the Daytime 5-Stag Derby at the New Cainta Coliseums. Metro Manila cockers will be bannered by Butchoy Olano, Lito Roque, Paeng Arciaga, Preco Reyes, Ram Lopez, MCA Cocker of the Year Edgar Coronel, Boy Tanyag, Manny Mira, Frankie Uy, Peping Ricafort and Billy Villalobos. They will be up against Rizal derby veterans such as Boy Jiao, Gen Rene Acop, Kano Cardona, Edgar Patenia, Sandy Tan, Tommy Lim, Boy Montaque and Alex Wolcott. The venue, which reopened on Aug. 18, is managed by Sam Mendoza, assisted by promoter Aba Badiola. For inquiries, call 6553334, 0918-2620338, or 0917-9992262.

Pro league adopts new import measuring method

By June Navarro

FROM standing up to lying down.

The new process of measuring the imports will be applied by the Philippine Basketball Association in the coming season where a 6-foot-6 ceiling for the guest players has been approved.

Instead of measuring the import vertically, commissioner Noli Eala said the league will now determine the height of an import lying down by using a wooden box with a 6-foot-6 frame.

"It will eliminate the risk factor of approving an import who stands taller than the prescribed height limitation," said Eala.

"Unlike before, the measurement this time will be accurate. If the import doesn't fit into the box, he'll immediately be declared ineligible."

Teams had protested the approval of visibly taller imports in the past. To silence the protests, the PBA set an unlimited height specification for imports in the 2005 Fiesta Conference won by San Miguel Beer.

Majority of the clubs, however, failed to land a topnotch import since blue-chip reinforcements during the months of February to June were playing either in Europe or the National Basketball Association.

"Usually, a talented player who stands at least 6-foot-8 will either be campaigning in Europe or seeing action in the NBA during those months," said Purefoods Chunkee governor Rene Pardo.

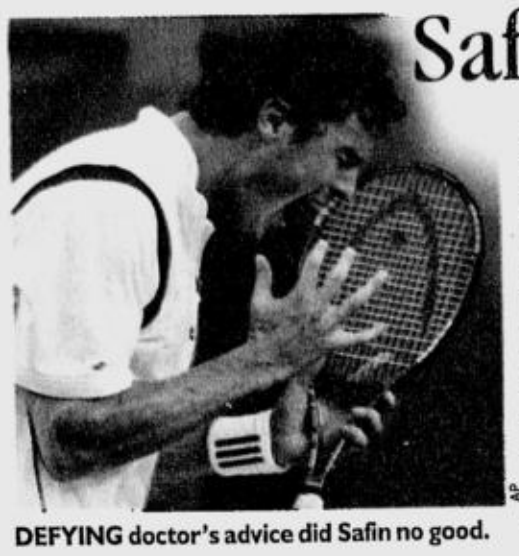
"The salary cap also prevents teams from getting quality imports," added Pardo.

Due to the tough times, the PBA has lowered the import salary cap to $14,000 a month, $6,000 less than what professional leagues in China or Japan offer.

The search for imports has started with five weeks left before the 2005-2006 season unfurls on Oct. 2.

Alaska has hooked up with Artemius McClary, while the Red Bull Barako is looking at former import Victor Thomas. Purefoods wants Markus Melvin back while Barangay Ginebra Kings is hoping to enlist Torraye Braggs anew.

Safin withdraws due to hurting knee


DEFYING doctor's advice did Safin no good. AP

MOSCOW—Fifth seed Marat Safin has withdrawn from the US Open which starts later on Monday because the knee injury which sidelined the Russian for seven weeks earlier this year is still troubling him.

Safin, 25, admitted two weeks ago that he had returned to the tour against doctors' advice to try to prepare for the US Open, one of his favorite events. He won his first Grand Slam title at Flushing Meadows in 2000.

"Although Marat wanted more than anything to play and has tried whatever he could to be ready, as a professional tennis player he has had to admit his body is saying it is too soon," said a statement on Safin's personal website.

"He has made the decision after discussions with all those around him. He is not depressed because he realizes this is the right thing to do."

The statement said the Australian Open champion would return for treatment in Italy where he previously had keyhole surgery on the knee. It was not clear how long he would be out of action.

"This time he will make sure he does not rush into returning. Marat still wants to play his tennis and he will be back," added the statement.

After winning the Australian Open in January, Safin struggled to regain form and concentration as his knee began to affect him.

He lost in the third round of Wimbledon and then missed seven weeks of competition when he underwent surgery to repair a knee ligament tear.

Safin missed Russia's 3-2 Davis Cup quarterfinal win over France in July. *Reuters*

Injuries take toll on women as US Open action kicks off

NEW YORK — There's no shortage of aches among the women trooping into the US Open on Monday, who are arriving with their bandages and painkillers, physical therapists and chiropractors.

Kim Clijsters, one of the few top players healthy at the moment, is favored to win her first Grand Slam title after racking up her tour-leading sixth title. She's rated better than No. 1 seed Maria Sharapova (returning from a strained chest muscle) and the woman set to reclaim the No. 1 spot in the WTA Tour rankings on Monday, Lindsay Davenport (returning from a back injury).

Yet Clijsters, 22, spoke Sunday of retiring in two years because of the toll tennis has taken on her body. She's worried about how her injuries will affect her life away from tennis in the future.

Davenport, 29, spoke last year about retiring. She, too, was having enough of foot and back injuries, among others, along with repeated rehabs. But she got a second wind in her career, finished last year No. 1 and has occupied the top spot most of this year, albeit without winning a Grand Slam title since the Australian in 2000.

Another Belgian, Justine Henin-Hardenne, 23, is not thinking about retirement yet but certainly can empathize with health issues. A blood virus kept Henin-Hardenne off the court much of last year, a right knee fracture during practice in December delayed her return to court until March, then a right hip flexor strain set her back in April.

Serena and Venus Williams have had more than their share of injuries the past few years but both will playing in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Monday. Tournament officials want to feature the former two-time champions, seeded eighth and 10th, respectively, early on — since they could clash in the fourth round.

French Open champion Rafael Nadal of Spain, seeded No. 2 in the men's draw behind Wimbledon champ Roger Federer, also will play on the main stadium court during the afternoon. *AP*

World Pool, LPGA on ABC-5

THE FINALS of the 9-Ball World Pool Championships will be replayed on ABC-5 today at 4:30 p.m., while Day 1 of the Wendy's LPGA tournament will be shown at 11 p.m. Catch the four-day tournament pitting the stars of the LPGA tour until Friday on the same time slot. ABC Sports has reserved its 11 p.m.-12 midnight slot during weekdays exclusively for golf tournaments. The game between the RP men's basketball team and Passing Lane Sports, a team made up of US collegiate stars, will be aired tomorrow at 7 p.m.

It's Faxon in sudden death

CROMWELL, Connecticut—Brad Faxon won the $4.3 million Buick Championship on Sunday by beating South Africa's Tjaart Van der Walt in a dramatic sudden-death playoff.

The pair finished one stroke ahead of third-round leader Justin Rose on a 72-hole, 14-under 266.

The 44-year-old Faxon, who started the day seven shots back of England's Rose, took the title on the 434-yard par-4 first extra hole with a superb seven-iron approach from the left-side bunker that landed two feet from the cup.

Van der Walt answered by driving his second shot off the flag to within 10 feet of the hole.

"Unbelievable," Faxon said. "I got lucky and hit a good shot. I wasn't going to take a whole lot of time with that one (putt), just get it over with." Faxon, of the United States, almost missed the cut on Friday, making it on the number after shooting a 71 in the second round.

He shot a career best nine-under 61 on Sunday to equal the course record at the TPC at River Highlands.

Faxon's best previous finish on the PGA Tour this year was a tie for third at the Barclays Classic. *AFP*

DEFENDERS: Players of reigning champion Royal Northwoods Golf Club are poised to make it two in a row in the Johnnie Walker Federation Golf League after topping the eliminations with a 4-0 defeat of Tagaytay Highlands recently. The RNGC squad will face the winner of the Manila Southwoods-Riviera match. The members of the team are (standing, from left) Adonis Baluyot, Joey Solis, Windy Imperial, Oliver Gan, Iking Teehankee, Erwin Co, Jun-Ro Mamaril, Jordan Mamaril and Sunny Donato. (Seated, from left) Tony Pancho, Junie Fontanilla, Peter Pancho, Efren Cruz, Rodel Mangulabnan, Bayani Fontanilla, Kim Chang Hoi, Arnel Arteche, Joseph Michael Cedo and Boy Ungson.

TOWERING YAO: China's NBA superstar Yao Ming (center) plays against Iceland during a friendly match in China's Shaanxi province, Monday. Yao scored a game-high 19 points with 9 rebounds in the game arranged to streamline his play after recovering from injury. China is preparing for the 23th Asian Basketball Championship, starting Sept. 8, in Doha, Qatar. AFP

Kerr thwarts Sorenstam

DUBLIN, Ohio—American Cristie Kerr made clutch par putts on the final two holes to win the $1.4 million LPGA Safeway Classic here Sunday, spoiling a charge to the finish by runner-up Annika Sorenstam.

Kerr fired a three-under par 69 in the final round to finish on 18-under par 270 to defeat Swedish world number one Sorenstam and 19-year-old American Paula Creamer by a shot. American Pat Hurst and South Korean Jeong Jang were fourth on 272.

Kerr and Hurst arrived at the 18th tee sharing a one-stroke lead over Sorenstam, already in the clubhouse after an impressive six-under par 66 final round. But Hurst took a double bogey. *AFP*

NBC five trounces S'pore for win No.2

HAAD TAI CITY, Thailand—The NBC-Nature's Spring Selection stepped up its title campaign in the 9th Crown Prince Cup invitational basketball tournament Sunday by whipping Singapore's national team, 81-66, at the Jiranakorn indoor stadium here.

With their second straight win, the Filipinos, composed of the best players from Tribu Sugbu, Mantawi and Laguna Spring, are now tied for the lead with host Thailand, which toppled South Korea, 90-82, in the other game.

Marvin Tundag waxed hot from the perimeter to spark the Filipinos' triumph in the five-team cagefest with 20 points. Mel Latoreno and Marlon Kalaw ably backed him up with 14 and 11 markers, respectively.

The NBC-Nature's Spring five opened its campaign here Saturday with a 90-78 conquest of tough Hong Kong.

"Our boys played an inspired game," said Tribu's coach Al Solis. His co-mentor, Jun Noel, added: "We're looking great. I think we have a good shot at the title."

Sponsored by Nature's Spring and backed by Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz, Spring Cooking Oil, Mandaue Mayor Teddy Ouano and Laguna Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro, the Filipinos exploded with 33 points in the third quarter to rip the contest wide open, 61-45, after barely inching ahead 14-11 and 28-27 in the first 20 minutes.

NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla congratulated coaches Solis and Noel and told them to "go for the title."

The scores:

NBC SELECTION 81—Tundag 20, Latoreno 14, Kalaw 11, Daa 8, Mangubat 5, Briones 5, Larong 4, Domingo 4, Villamin 4, Huelar 3, Almacin 3.

SINGAPORE 66—Yuh 15, Matialakan 13, Ren 11, Jie 10, Koon 8, Liang 4, Leng 3, Hong 2.

Quarters: 14-11, 28-27, 61-45, 81-66

Hope Christian, UE spikers strike again

HOPE Christian School and University of the East posted their second straight victories Sunday to show the way in the Shakey's Girls Volleyball Invitational League at the UST gym.

Powered by setter Jamenea Ferrer, Hope nipped UST, 18-25, 25-20, 25-20, in the tournament featuring some of the best junior volleyball teams in Metro Manila and the nearby provinces.

Although smaller, Hope Christian's spikers also banked on the strong defense put up by Carmela Garbin, Joan Rebotiaco and Joanna Ching to frustrate the hosts.

The UE belles demolished Philippine Institute of Quezon City, 21-15, 21-15.

In other games, De La Salle Lipa came back from a second-set heartbreak to down Imus Institute, 25-9, 23-25, 25-23, while St. Francis of Assisi walked over E. Rondon High School.

The La Sallians rallied from a six-point deficit to prevail in the third set.

SHAKEY'S GIRLS VOLLEYBALL INVITATIONAL LEAGUE

Hope Christian overhauled a slow start but ended dealing University of Santo Tomas its 1st loss in the Shakey's Girls Volleyball Invitational League. Hope's defense was formidable against a taller UST team to win the 3-setter match 18-25, 25-20, 25.20. De La Salle Lipa squared part Imus Institute 25-9, 23-25, 25-23 with 12 kills from Regine Diego. University of the East defeated Philippine Institute of Quezon City 25-15, 25-15. St. Francis of Assisi College System, Bacoor won by default over E. Rondon High School.

"I am overwhelmed by the efforts Shakey's and the organizers have initiated for the development of Girls Volleyball. We hope the GVIL expands into a Regional event where we can discover and develop future National Team Players. In behalf of the Philippine Volleyball Federation, thank you Shakey's and organizers." said Roger Banzuela, Philippine Volleyball Federation President, who honored the event with his presence Sunday morning.

Miriam College debuts on Saturday, September 3 playing a 2-header match against U.P. Integrated School, 11:00am and Phil. Institute of QC at 2:30pm. Other matches will be Immaculate Conception Academy, likewise playing a 2-header against Hope at 10:00am and Diliman Preparatory at 1:30pm, the latter playing a double-header versus E. Rondon High School. On Sunday, September 4, games will be played at UST Gym. St. Francis of Assisi, Bacoor versus Hope, Colegio San Agustin versus De La Salle Lipa, Grace Christian versus E. Rondon High School and U.P. Intergrated School versus Phil. Institute of QC.

TEAM STANDINGS (as of August 28, 2005)

Group A	W	L
DLS-Lipa	2	0
UE HS	2	0
CSA	1	0
PIQC	1	2
UPIS	0	1
IMUS Inst.	0	3
MIRIAM HS	-	-

Group B	W	L
HCS	2	0
UST HS	2	1
SFAC HS	2	1
ICA-GH	0	1
E.RONDON	0	2
DILIMAN PREP	0	2
GCS	-	-

NEXT GAME:
Sept. 4, Sun - 10am-3pm
UST Gym, P. Noval St. Mla.

Sept. 11, Sun - 10am-3pm
UST Gym, P. Noval St. Mla.

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RACING

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. My Lady Hannah 2. Dazzling Affair 3. Western Dancer 4. Silver Place
Race 2—1. Sound of Silence 2. Victory Ranger 3. Black Widow 4. Virgin Island 5. Naida's Star 6. Sharp Cookie
Race 3—1. La Signorina 2. Superwoman 3. Big Boss 4. Filte D Honneur
Race 4—1. Gonfalon Story 2. Quant Je Puis 3. Mr. Bonjing 4. Guest House
Race 5—1. Crowning Glory/Rapid Fire 2. Storm Gauge 3. Rhyme and A Prayer 4. Mrs. Big
Race 6—1. Day Break 2. Longshot Tony 3. Beat D Heat 4. Besame Mucho 5. Coat of Arms
Race 7—1. Butlish Dream 2. Loaded 3. He's So Lucky 4. Wallup Forever
Race 8—1. Red Storm 2. Donna Messier 3. Dixie Dash 4. Calvin's Magic 5. Golden Harry 6. Speed Admiral

Korean tops Class A, leads Eagle Ridge August titlists

TWO of Eagle Ridge's four championship courses, the Faldo and Norman layouts, hosted seven simultaneous club competitions for different handicap levels recently with Korean expatriate Park Chan-jung holding off local rivals to capture the top award.

Park, a 13-handicapper, scored a net 66 to beat Pio Villacorta by a stroke and George Samonte Sr. in the battle for the Class A title in the 18-hole event which served as Eagle Ridge's monthly members tournament for August.

Also at the Faldo course, Reynaldo Blas tallied a net 67 on a handicap of 17, winning over Rosanno Torres and Ben Gubat, who both finished with similar net 69s.

The friendlier conditions at the Norman course yielded low rounds and exciting finishes.

Harvey Cobankiat came through with the lowest net of the well-attended tourney partly sponsored by Citibank with his 63 giving him the men's Class D crown. He wound up two shots ahead of Michael Sy and five up on Florence Sylianco.

The men's Class C crown went to Rey Villafuerte, the ladies title was won by Shirley Tiu while Rudy Villanueva and Romulo Garcia split the titles disputed in seniors play.

Villafuerte scored a 70 then nipped Ricardo Cobankiat in a countback for the crown with Danilo Batino barely making it a three-way tie after a 71. Tiu, meanwhile, could only win by one despite a low five-under 67 with Peony Nepomuceno (68) and Marthy del Rosario (70) taking the next two places.

Villanueva won Division I for 55-64 year-olds with a net 66 while Garcia topped Division II for those 65 years and older with a 63.

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2

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

More videos of old Filipino movies released

FROM time to time, film buffs ask us where they can get copies of Filipino movie classics. We point them to video stores where they could wade through hundreds of tapes and discs to come up with a few gems. Or to cable TV channels devoted to films, where local movie classics more than occasionally make an appearance. Or to film fests and retrospectives.

We also inform them that Sampaguita Pictures has an archive of some 200 of the studio's 800 productions, mostly from the '50s, '60s and '70s. And that LVN pictures has been planning to come up with a special set of four of its best movies.

And, anytime now, Viva Films is releasing "Bagets" and "Bagets 2," seminal youth films that helped launch or bolster the careers of **Aga Muhlach, William Martinez, Herbert Bautista, Raymond Lauchengco, JC Bonnin,** Ramon Christopher and **Francis Magalona.**

We still have a strong recollection of having enjoyed "Bagets," the way it dramatized the angst of youths in the '80s, and the luminous debut performance turned in by the then teenage Aga Muhlach.

It's a good film to have in one's library, especially since the "Bagets" video set will include interviews with some of the two films' principal players.

It can also serve as a timely springboard for a "where are they now?" update discussion with fellow film buffs. Well, everybody knows that Aga is a

top romantic-dramatic lead, who gets to star in the best projects that Star Cinema can think up. His latest film, "Dubai," was shot abroad, following up on the studio's successful "Milan" project a couple of years ago.

William Martinez lived in the States with his wife **Yayo Aguila** for some years, but he's come home and appears occasionally on television. Herbert Bautista is Quezon City's vice mayor.

Raymond Lauchengco has just revived his performing career by way of a new album, but he's better known these days as as a photographer. JC Bonnin is a preacher.

Francis Magalona is a star rapper and TV host, and one of his progenies, Maxene, has launched her own entertainment career. Ramon Christopher is not very active in the biz, and has separated from his wife, Lotlot de Leon.

After the "Bagets" video set is released, we hope that other producers will come up with their own video compilations of their best and/or most popular productions.

Film buffs are also asking for filmmaker sets. Why not compile **Lino Brocka's** best movies, or **Eddie Romero's**, etc.? Of course, securing video rights from different producers can be a problem, but it can be surmounted.

That would help preserve and renew public interest in our finest filmmakers' masterworks, and that would be an important service indeed in the heretofore posterity—clueless Filipino film scene.

'Wire in the Blood II'

ON SEPT. 4 at 10:35 p.m., the Hallmark Channel screens "Wire in the Blood II," a bone-chilling thriller that will air every Sunday until Sept. 25. The series reunites topnotch psychologist Dr. Tony Hill and Detective Inspector Carol Jordan as they follow a serial killer's bloody trail and race to anticipate his next chilling move.

Based on character in **Val McDermid's** best-selling novels, this award-winning series presents four of its most exciting episodes, including one written by **Alan Whiting** that has been nominated in the Best Television Feature or Mini-Series Teleplay category.

Reviews praise its "gripping adaptation" and "superb performance," and describe the show as "the best crime series this year—don't miss it, TV thrillers simply don't come any better than this." After such glowing endorsements, we'll be sure to catch the series' first telecast on Hallmark on Sept. 4.

Araneta Center Leisure Guide...

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THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE 1:35 / 4:10 / 6:45 / 9:20	THE GREAT RAID 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00
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3 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE 12:50 / 3:25 / 6:00 / 8:35	DOLBY DIGITAL SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

SYMPHONY OF THE HEART- GARY V *September 2, Friday 8pm*	ADIDAS ASIAN STREETBALL FINALS 2005 *Sep.3, Sat. 10am - 5pm & Sep.4, Sun 9am - 5pm*
NCAA CHEERING COMPETITION *September 7, Wednesday 2pm*	THE CASCADES ENCORE *September 9, Friday 8pm*

CENTER EVENTS

SALE EVENT	*Ali Mall Fashionista Fair ongoing until August 31. Thrifty meets trendy! Score the coolest looks while still going easy on your wallet.*
EXHIBIT	*Nissan Display ongoing until August 30 at the Cineplex 10 Lobby of Gateway Mall*
NEW STORES	*Pancake House (Level 2) at Gateway Mall & KFC (Third Floor) at Farmers Plaza*

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

On 'toon network

CARTOON Network Philippines' program highlights this month include **"The Life & Times of Juniper Lee".**

Juniper Lee is a typical 11-year-old having fun with friends, dealing with siblings and worrying about schoolwork. But fate has dealt June a slightly different hand.

For generations, a member of her family has inherited the secret responsibility of fighting the forces of mischief and chaos. On any given day, she may have to—for instance—skip out on her best friend's birthday party to discipline some unruly leprechauns or smack down some trouble-making gnomes.

Premieres Sept. 4, showing Sundays at 9:30 a.m., with replays at 6 p.m.

On Sept. 3, Megatoon movie presents **"The Bugs Bunny/Road Runner Movie,"** the "greatest Looney Tunes chase-movie ever made." Featuring classic moments from "Robin Hood Daffy," "What's Opera, Doc?" and "Duck Amuck."

7TH 'ASTIG' COMEDY DAY!

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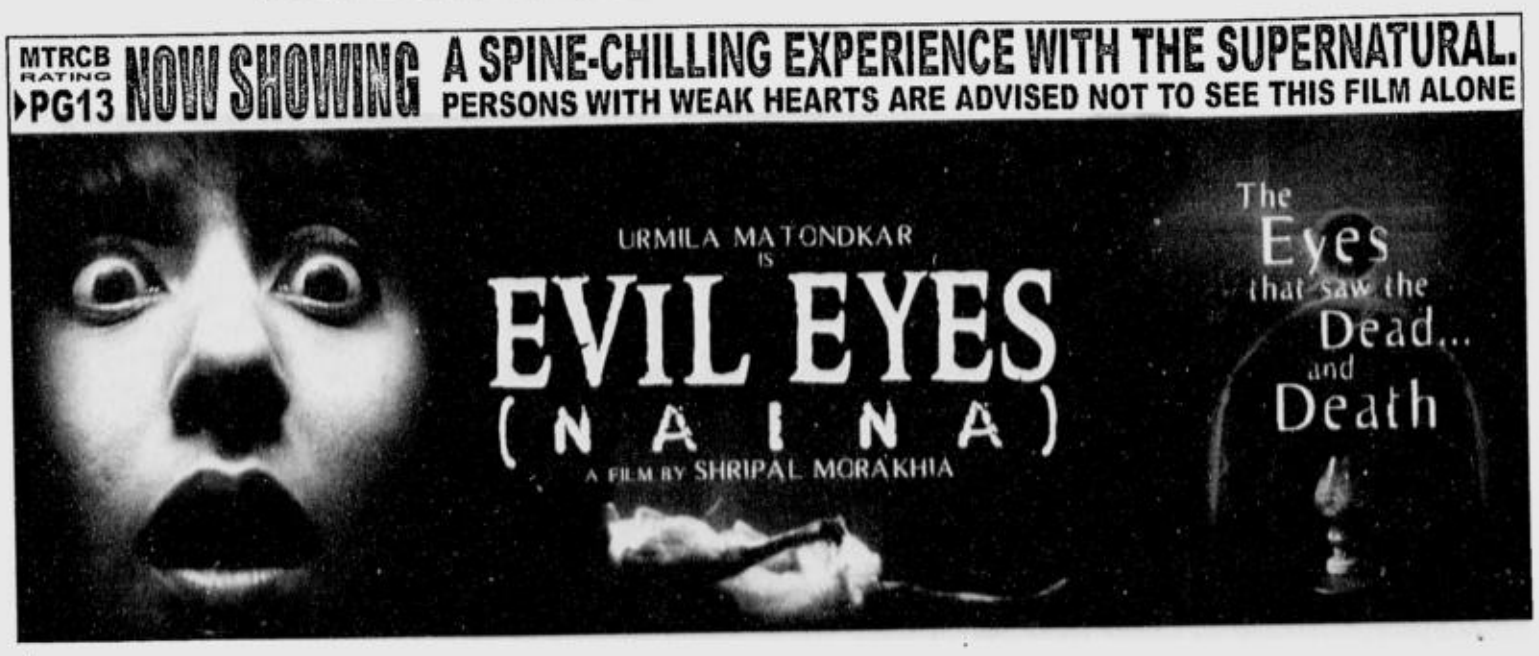

Off-cam tension...

From page A32

'Big Brother' hook

MANY viewers are getting hooked on "Pinoy Big Brother." Is it true that the housemates are paid only P5,000 each a week? That's a measly amount in exchange for their total loss of privacy for 100 days. But they don't seem to mind because the reality show could be a stepping stone for them. The doors in the specially built PBB house (which, I heard, is worth about P15 million) are bound to open many more doors for the housemates, so to speak. Isn't it ironic that when stars become famous, they complain about lack of privacy, while in PBB it's giving up privacy that becomes the participants' passport to stardom?

Foursome, gruesome

IS IT true that **JC Parker** wanted to live with her boyfriend, **Danilo Barrios**, but his mentor didn't allow it? It's only right for him to protect his ward. Danilo stays in the same townhouse as **Spencer Reyes** (they have the same mentor), plus Spencer's wife and baby. Perhaps JC thought that Danilo and she should already be playing house, too. Too bad that, for the strict mentor, foursome is gruesome.

'Bridge' album

FOR THE success of "Bridge: The Album," a thanksgiving party was held at the Century Park Sheraton. All the artists in the album—**Francis M, Andrew E**, Denmark, Dice & K9, Chinese Mafia, Razzamanazz, Phat Nasty Crew, Gulpe de Gulat, Kruzzada, Crazy as Pinoy and Stick Figgas—were present to receive their plaques of appreciation from **DJ Bell**, Webstar Phil. Entertainment president **Franklin Sambajon** and Manila Vice Mayor **Danny lacuna**. They all rendered their services gratis.

In the same occasion, DJ Bell turned over the funds accumulated from the sales of the CDs to Lacuna for the benefit of Manila's underprivileged schoolchildren.

The success of the project may turn into a concert at the Big Dome. It will be called "Bridge to the World: Asian Rap Festival." It would be a party to look forward to for hip-hop fanatics. Call 5215183 or 5215230, ask for Kiko or Arlo.

(E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com)

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1 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE 01:55FS/02:25MF/04:35/06:45 08:25FS/09:00LMF/10:40END
2 LONGEST YARD 12:50FS/01:20MF/03:50/06:20 08:20LFS/09:00LFS/10:55END
CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 BEWITCHED 11:20FS/11:30MF/01:30/03:30/05:30/07:30 09:10FS/09:30LMF/11:10END
2 SKELETON KEY 11:20FS/11:30MF/01:30/03:30/05:30/07:30 09:10FS/09:30LMF/11:10END
3 WEDDING CRASHERS 12:00FS/12:18MF/02:36/04:54/07:12 09:07LFS/09:30LFS/11:25END

METRO MANILA
SM MEGAMALL
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 THE GREAT RAID
5 EVIL EYES
6 SKELETON KEY
7 D' ANOTHERS
8 LONGEST YARD
9 MUST LOVE DOGS
10 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
11 VALIANT
12 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 BEWITCHED
3 MUST LOVE DOGS
4 THE GREAT RAID
5 EVIL EYES
6 D' ANOTHERS
7 LONGEST YARD
8 VALIANT
9 SKELETON KEY
10 STEALTH
11 THE EYE INFINITY
12 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR
SM NORTH EDSA
1 LONGEST YARD
2 SKELETON KEY
3 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 MUST LOVE DOGS
6 THE GREAT RAID
7 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
8 VALIANT
SM CITY STA MESA
1 LONGEST YARD
2 SKELETON KEY
3 VALIANT
4 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
5 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
6 D' ANOTHERS
7 THE GREAT RAID
8 MUST LOVE DOGS
9 EVIL EYES
10 BEWITCHED
SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 LONGEST YARD
2 VALIANT
3 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
4 SKELETON KEY
5 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
6 THE GREAT RAID
7 D' ANOTHERS
8 EVIL EYES
9 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
10 BEWITCHED
SM CITY MANILA
1 MUST LOVE DOGS
2 SKELETON KEY
3 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
4 LONGEST YARD
5 VALIANT
6 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
7 THE EYE INFINITY
8 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
9 THE GREAT RAID
10 D' ANOTHERS
11 EVIL EYES
12 BEWITCHED
SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR
2 EVIL EYES
3 LONGEST YARD
4 THE GREAT RAID
SM CITY BICUTAN
1 LONGEST YARD
2 ICE PRINCESS
3 EVIL EYES
4 THE GREAT RAID
SM SAN LAZARO
1 LONGEST YARD
2 SKELETON KEY
3 VALIANT
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 MUST LOVE DOGS
6 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

LUZON
SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 THE GREAT RAID
2 WEDDING CRASHERS
3 BEWITCHED
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR
6 PUSANG GALA
SM CITY BACOOR
1 PUSANG GALA
2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
3 SKELETON KEY
4 LONGEST YARD
5 THE GREAT RAID
6 D' ANOTHERS
7 EVIL EYES
8 THE ISLAND
SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 SKELETON KEY
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 MUST LOVE DOGS
4 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR
SM CITY BAGUIO
1 WEDDING CRASHERS
2 THE EYE INFINITY
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 ARAHAN
SM CITY MARILAO
1 WEDDING CRASHERS
2 BEWITCHED
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
SM CITY LUCENA
1 STEALTH
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 CRASH
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
SM CITY BATANGAS
1 IF ONLY
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 THE MACHINIST

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
SM CITY CEBU
1 BEWITCHED
2 SKELETON KEY
3 WEDDING CRASHERS
4 BEWITCHED
5 IF ONLY
6 PUSANG GALA
7 SHAOLIN vs. EVIL DEAD
8 D' ANOTHERS
9 THE GREAT RAID
SM CITY ILOILO
1 CRASH
2 RESERVED
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 WEDDING CRASHERS
6 STEALTH
7 RESERVED
8 THE GREAT RAID
SM CITY DAVAO
1 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 ARAHAN
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 PUSANG GALA
5 BEWITCHED
6 THE GREAT RAID
SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
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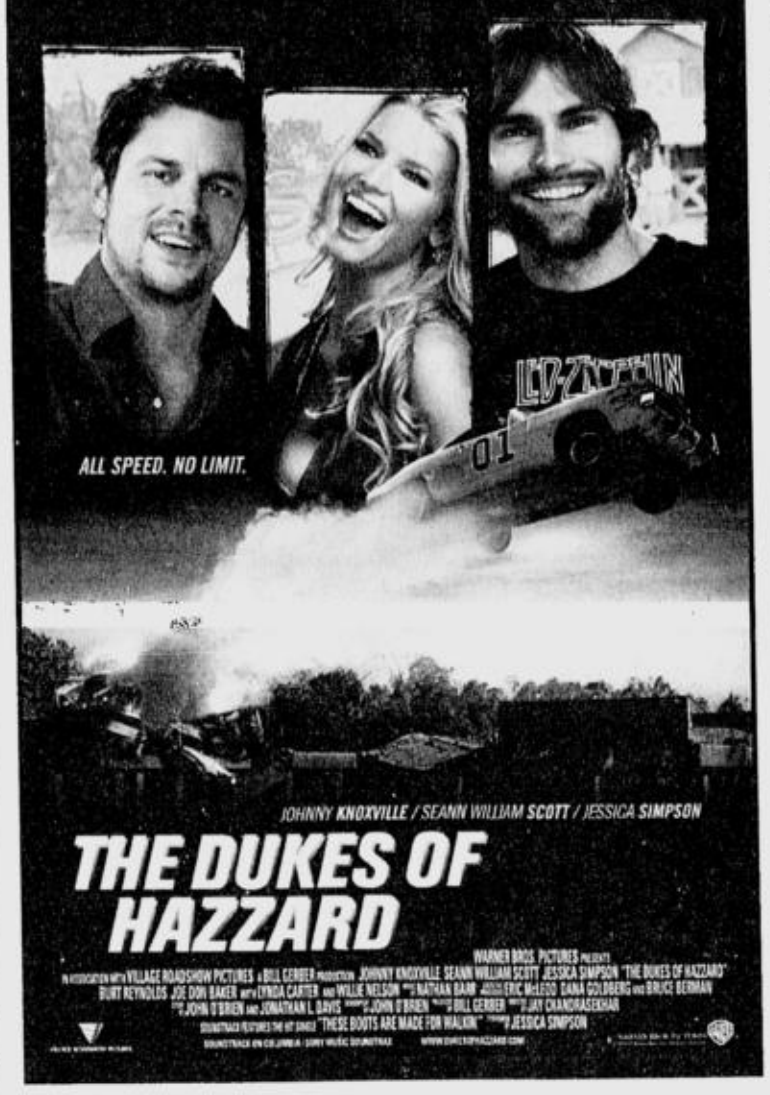

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CINEMA 5 LONGEST YARD PG13 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
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3 THE LONGEST YARD (PG-13) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7.30, 10:00
4 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS MTRCB GP 11 20, 2 00, 4 40, 7.20, 10:00
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1 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE 12:55, 3:20, 5:45 8:10, 10:35 PG-13
2 VALIANT 1:50, 4:00, 6:10 8:20, 10:30 GP
3 SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00 GP
4 THE LONGEST YARD 1:05, 3:35, 6:05 8:35, 11:00 PG-13

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VALIANT GP 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00
SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15
TRUTH ABOUT LOVE PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05
SKELETON KEY PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40
LONGEST YARD PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15

'Sky High' delivers

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

NOPE, this isn't your ordinary high school. Walt Disney's enjoyably campy "Sky High," about a secret super-campus of the same name, parodies the dynamics of super-heroism while being respectful of its target audience, comic book and cartoon aficionados.

REVIEW

It's a geek-pleaser, first and foremost, as there are a number of references to comic book mythology. The world in this live-action film is replete with cartoon-y possibilities and improbabilities, making it thoroughly accessible and fun for casual viewers, as well.

As in other fictional, extraordinary schools such as the X-Men's mutant academy, or Harry Potter's Hogwarts, the students in Sky High belong to cliques. We see this environment through Will Stronghold, (charismatic Michael Angarano from "Will and Grace"), the son of the world's mightiest heroes (played by Kurt Russell and Kelly Preston). But his powers have yet to kick in, which leads him to lunchtime trouble and being relegated to the "Hero Support" or sidekick class ("loser" class to the popular kids from the hero squad).

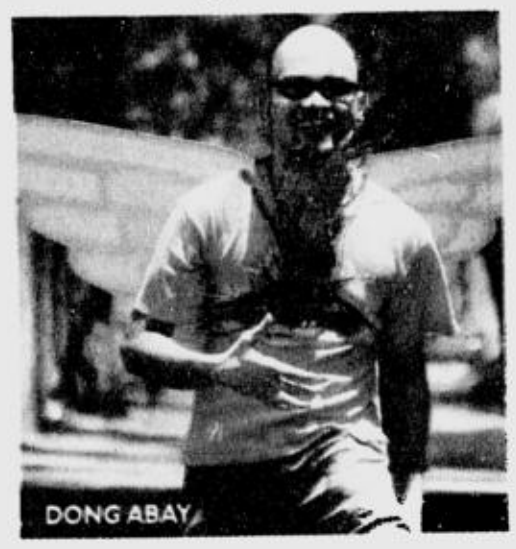
Fresh, funny

"Sky High" has a funny (pun-ny) script, written by "Kim Possible" creators Mark McCorkle and Bob Schooley, who are no strangers to out-of-this-world adventures. We see how real heroes are shaped and defined, as the colorful assortment of teens proves their moral allegiances throughout the story, regardless of their powers.

Mostly, it's entertainingly fresh, but it does have by-the-numbers moments, such as the mushy teen romance angle and sequences where the kids with seemingly useless powers get to shine. It also has an uneven soundtrack that features a bunch of '80s remakes, which gets quite annoying (the first few seconds of Spandau Ballet's "True" is a mite overplayed during scenes with Will and his crush).

Nevertheless, "Sky High" is amusing. Director Mike Mitchell exhibits a handle on comedic timing and energetic interactions that befit the story's feel-good, swashbuckling bent.

The appearance of beautiful Lynda Carter ('70s "Wonder Woman") is brief but endearingly silly. Let's hope she gets to do more in the sequel, if and when that happens.



'Take note, one word'

SPIN CITY

IN 1994, when Dong Abay became the frontman of the rock band Yano, he was finishing his Philippine Studies course at the University of the Philippines. When the band hit it big, Abay quit school. But in October he is finally graduating from college after almost 18 years.

This is not the only thing that's exciting Abay these days. There's also his new band, dongabay. "Take note, one word," he says. "*Saka* lower case, *ha—parang* e.e. cummings at k.d. lang."

After Yano, Abay was briefly in a band called Pan with ex-Yano bassist Onie Badiang. Pan's short-lived career spawned an album, "Parnaso ng Payaso" which yielded tracks like "Dumpsite" and "Hula." These became favorites in alternative rock circles.

New band

But in January 2005 Abay announced Pan's demise. Now he's back again with a brand-new set of two young band mates—JC Co on guitar and Allan Quimbo on drums. Completing the lineup as sessionists are bass player Jing Gaddi and guitarist Mark Villena, both ex-Tungaw who are also with Brown Briefs.

Abay jokingly describes the group, "*Basta magaling at pogi kami lahat.*" Emphasis on "jokingly."

The band is currently working on a 17-track album of all-Original Pilipino music, hopefully for release before the year ends. Eight of these songs are featured [in acoustic version] in an independently produced CD sampler that came out a few months ago titled "Sampol." Still evident in the songs is Abay's penchant for capturing Pinoy sentiments and sensibilities. "Some of these songs were written as far back as 2001, *pero* I believe relevant *pa rin. Masarap pa ring kantahin. Tagos na tagos pa rin*," Abay says.

While the album is awaiting completion, dongabay is gearing up for a concert at the Iriga Coliseum in Bicol on Sept. 2. The concert is sponsored by the Order of the Knights of Rizal Iriga City chapter and the city government.

Dante Arganoza

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1 BEWITCHED • THX
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

2 THE LONGEST YARD
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 THE GREAT RAID
11:40 2:20 5:00 7:40 10:00

4 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

5 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
12:00 2:20 4:50 7:20 9:50

6 VALIANT
1:40 3:40 5:40 7:40 9:40

7 MUST LOVE DOGS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

8 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOALTE FACTORY
12:00 2:15 4:45 7:15 9:45

9 EVIL EYES
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

10 D' ANOTHERS
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 THE LONGEST YARD
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

2 EVIL EYES
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 THE SISITERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50

4 VALIANT
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

5 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

6 MUST LOVE DOGS
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

7 THE GREAT RAID
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50

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1 EVIL EYES
1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

2 THE GREAT RAID
12:35 3:25 6:15 9:05

3 VALIANT
12:35 2:45 4:55 7:05 9:15

4 MUST LOVE DOGS
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

5 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

6 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10

7 THE LONGEST YARD
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

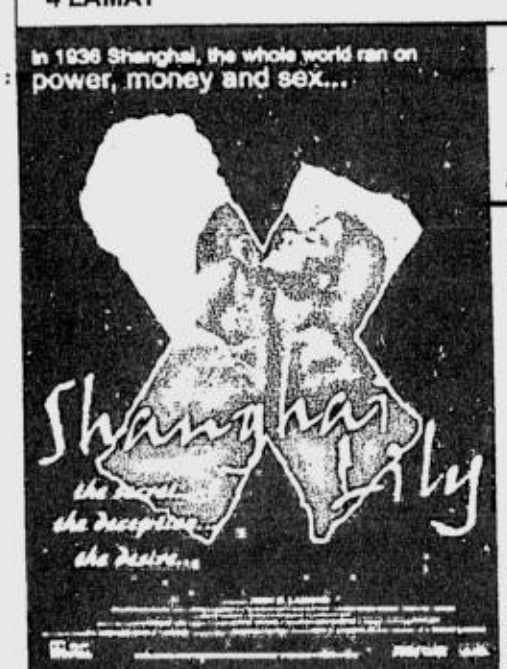
8 D' ANOTHERS
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 YEAR OF THE YAO
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 SHAOLIN VS. STONE WARRIOR
4 LAMAT

PIONEER 687-5378

1 THE LONGEST YARD
2 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 EVIL EYES
4 MUST LOVE DOGS



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2 D' ANOTHERS
3 THE EYE INFINITY
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3 SHAOLIN VS. STONE WARRIOR
4 MGA PUSANG GALA

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2 ARAHAN
3 WEDDING CRASHERS
4 MGA PUSANG GALA

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3 THE LONGEST YARD
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5 SHAOLIN VS. STONE WARRIOR
6 THE GREAT RAID

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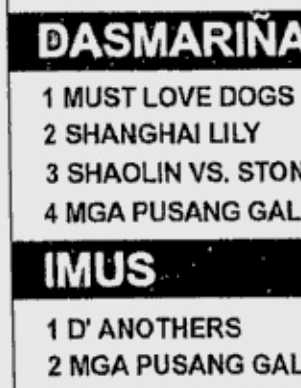
1 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 IF ONLY
3 WEDDING CRASHERS
4 STEALTH
5 THE MACHINIST
6 THE EYE INFINITY

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 THE GREAT RAID
2 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
3 CRASH
4 STEALTH



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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE	2 THE LONGEST YARD	3 MUST LOVE DOGS	4 D' ANOTHERS
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE	2 MUST LOVE DOGS	3 THX SKELETON KEY 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 BEWITCHED	5 VALIANT	6 THE LONGEST YARD	7 SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 CINEMANILA SNEAK PREVIEW For screening schedule, call 750-4180 to 81		2 THE LONGEST YARD 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX MUST LOVE DOGS 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX THE LONGEST YARD 1:55, 4:15, 6:35, 8:55, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 SISTERHOOD OF THE... 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 VALIANT 2:15, 4:05, 5:55, 7:45, 9:35, 11:25 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE LONGEST YARD		2 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE	
	3 VALIANT	4 SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS	5 MUST LOVE DOGS	
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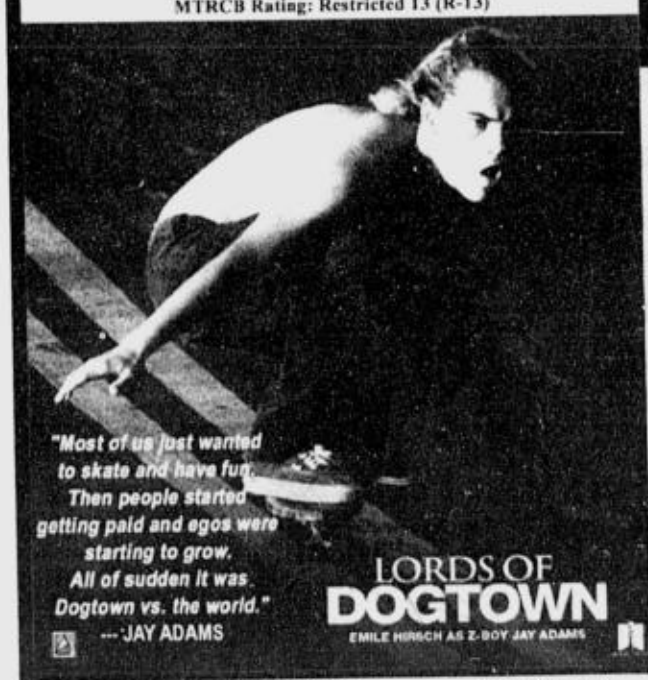

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Manderlay *Lars Von Trier* (Denmark/USA, 2005)
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Golden Palm-Nominated - Cannes 2005

Kekexili: Mountain Patrol Lu Chuan (China, 2004)
A moving true story about volunteers protecting antelope against poachers in the severe mountains of Tibet. *Don Quixote-Special Award* - Berlin 2005

Frozen Land *Aku Louhimies* (Finland, 2005)
Comprises three overlapping stories, the disparate characters of which share a common destiny as a counterfeit banknote touches their lives.
FIPRESCI Prize, Nordic Film Prize, Nordic Vision Award - Goteborg Filmfest 2005
Special Jury Prize - Moscow 2005

Factotum *Bent Hammer* (USA/Norway, 2005)
A jack-of-all-trades wanders around LA trying to live off jobs which don't interfere with his primary interests - women, drinking, gambling and writing. Stars: Matt Dillon, Lili Taylor, Fisher Stevens and Marisa Tomei. *Directors Fortnight* - Cannes 2005

Daybreak *Bjorn Runge* (Sweden, 2003)
A dark drama about the destructive nature of dishonesty and betrayal.
Blue Angel, Silver Berlin Award - Berlinale 2004

Bishonen *Yonfan* (Hong Kong, 1998)
Hong Kong's star gigolo falls in love with a hunky policeman. A story of false identities and deceit ensues.

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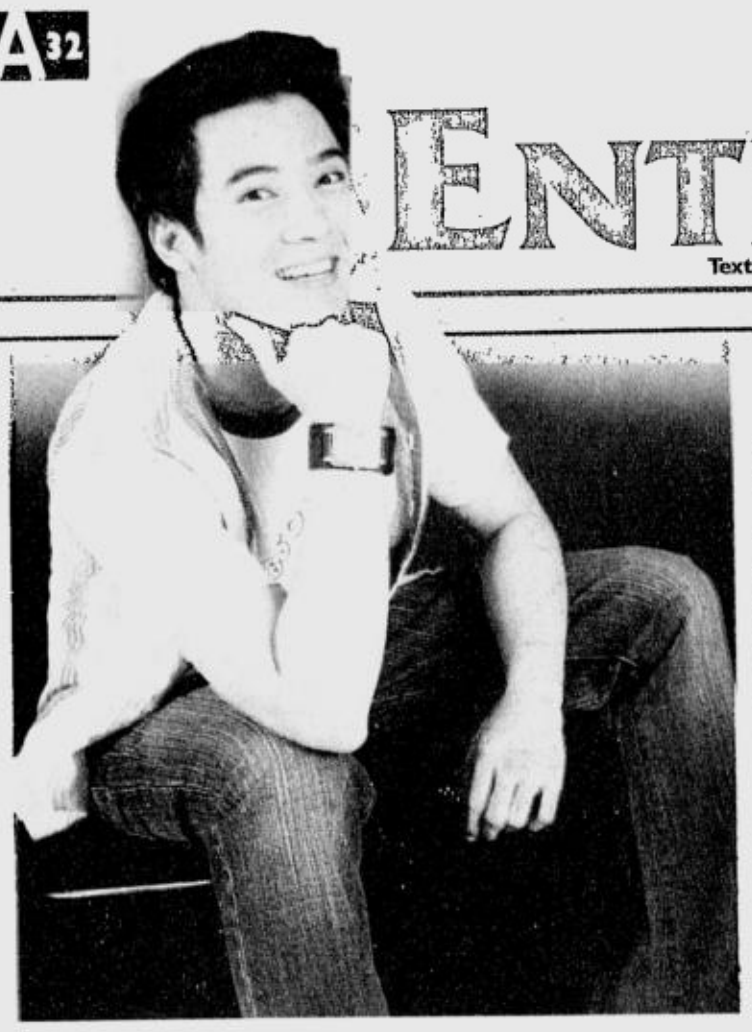
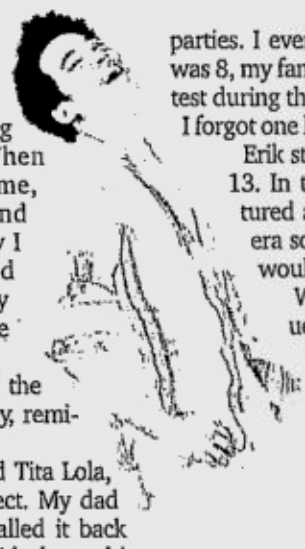


Erik Santos, born to sing

Text, styling and direction by Larry Leviste



"MY PARENTS say I was singing before I could read or write. When I was 4 years old, they tell me, they would turn on the radio and I would croon along. They say I could do Sharon Cuneta and Whitney Houston until early puberty when my voice changed."

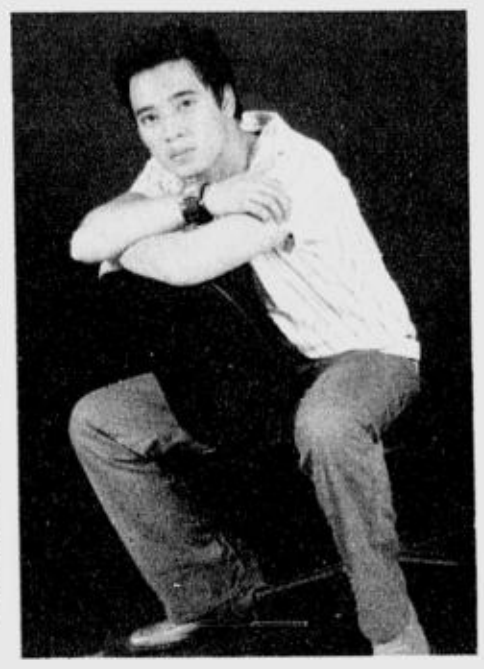
That was Erik Santos, one of the country's top young singers today, reminiscing.

"My dad's aunt, whom I called Tita Lola, trained me to vocalize and project. My dad had a band, a combo as they called it back then. At 6, I knew how to sing with the multiplex. I loved singing at barangay affairs, house parties. I even joined the church choir. When I was 8, my family urged me to join a singing contest during the Malabon fiesta. It was traumatic; I forgot one line and was so embarrassed."

Erik stopped singing altogether until age 13. In the mean time, his voice had matured and he started doing Martin Nievera songs. At this point, Erik decided he would specialize in pop and ballads.

While studying Dentistry, he continued to sing. After winning ABS-CBN's "Star in a Million" search in 2004, he forgot college altogether.

Erik is currently one of Backroom's hottest talents. His manager, Boy Abunda even produced a show for him at the Araneta Coliseum, with Ai-Ai de las Alas. He's just released a new album called "I'll Never Go."



ROUNDUP

Robert Downey weds

WASHINGTON—Hollywood actor Robert Downey Jr., whose drug addiction landed him in jail in the 1990s, has married his longtime girlfriend, film producer Susan Levin, People magazine reported.

The ceremony attended by close family and friends took place in the Long Island town of Amagansett, outside New York, late Saturday, according to the report.

Guests included actor Keanu Reeves, who arrived by motorcycle, and singers Billy Joel and Sting accompanied by their wives, People said.

MR. & MRS. Downey Jr. REUTERS

Forty-year-old Downey and Levin, 31, met in 2002 when she helped produce the movie "Gothika," a psychological thriller starring Downey and Halle Berry.

It is the second marriage for Downey, who has an 11-year-old son with ex-wife Deborah Falconer. *AFP*

Top US movies this week

LOS ANGELES—Estimated movie ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc., official box office tracker:

1) "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," $16.4M; 2) "The Brothers Grimm," $15.1M; 3) "Red Eye," $10.4M; 4) "Four Brothers," $7.8M; 5) "Wedding Crashers," $6.25M; 6) "The Cave," $6.2M; 7) "March of the Penguins," $4.6M; 8) "The Skeleton Key," $4.4M; 9) "Valiant," $3.35M; 10) "The Dukes of Hazzard," $3.05M *AP*

Chicks love a vegan

COREY Wills, Bench model, a vegetarian, is the bod on the new ad for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta).

The ad will run across the Philippines, with the first billboard debuting Sept. 1 along the North Luzon Express Way. Wills, wearing little more than a smile, poses with three chicks. The tagline reads: "Chicks Love a Vegetarian."

"I don't believe in hurting animals," Wills says.

That swan dress

LONDON—Internet shoppers will get a chance to add an unusual item to their wardrobe: the flamboyant swan dress worn by Icelandic singer Bjork, which will be auctioned for charity next month.

International aid agency Oxfam last week said the quirky dress, which the unconventional songstress wore to the 2001 Oscars ceremony, was among more than 150 celebrity fashion items that will be up for grabs on the Internet auction site eBay. The proceeds will go to Oxfam.

Bjork turned heads in the white dress that featured a ruffled feather skirt and an imitation swan's neck that Bjork draped around her own neck, with the bird's head resting on her breast.

Online bidding will be open from Sept. 18-25, coinciding with London Fashion Week. *AP*

Set to take Venice

ROME—A raft of Hollywood stars led by George Clooney, Gwyneth Paltrow, Ralph Fiennes and Matt Damon are set to take Venice by storm next week for the start of the 62nd international film festival, watched over by hundreds of counter-terrorism police.

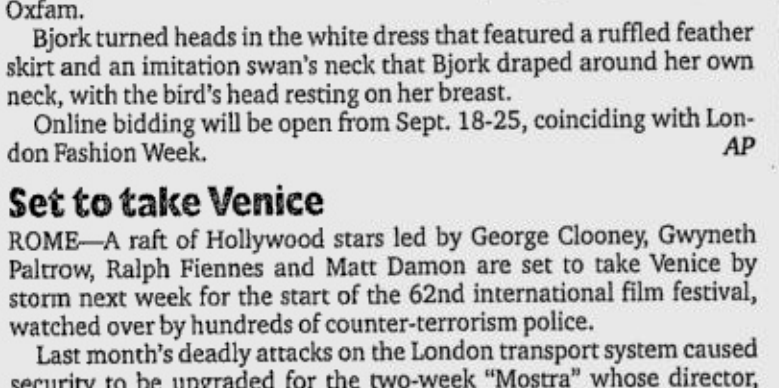
Last month's deadly attacks on the London transport system caused security to be upgraded for the two-week "Mostra" whose director, Marco Mueller, acknowledged is a "natural target for attack given the number of VIPs."

Divers will check the canal system around the Lido which the stars will use to attend screenings, while—if some media reports are to be believed—snipers will be positioned on rooftops as Italy attempts to safeguard the world's oldest film festival from terrorist attack.

Clooney's film, "Goodnight and Good Luck," in which he co-stars with Robert Downey Jr., is one of 19 films in the running for the prestigious Golden Lion award for best film. *AFP*

Wisteria Lane tragedy

TONIGHT, on Star World's "Desperate Housewives," tragedy forces the residents of Wisteria Lane to reassess their lives. Meanwhile, Susan grows suspicious of Mike Delfino's reason for moving into the neighborhood, and Lynette reaches a breaking point in her addiction to the twins' ADD medication. Plus, the mysterious Mr. Shaw gets down to business.



TV'S MOST famous housewives

How to sell your script in H'wood

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

A FREQUENT Manila visitor is Roger Garcia, writer-producer-film fest programmer who has made it big in the biz with both mainstream Hollywood flicks and cutting-edge independent fare.

He has worked with stars like Mark Wahlberg and Lou Diamond Phillips, but he also champions the projects of Filipino alternative filmmakers Raymond Red and Rico Maria Ilarde. In fact, he is producing Ilarde's latest digital feature, "Sa Ilalim ng Cogon," as well as Red's "Camera Obscura."

As programmer in the New York Asian-American, Udine and Torino International Film Festivals, Garcia has assiduously included Filipino movies in the lineup and is now organizing Lino Brocka and Lav Diaz retrospectives in the Torino event this November.

Although there is not a drop of Pinoy blood in his veins, Garcia has assumed the role of staunch supporter of Pinoy works in the global circuit.

During his latest Manila trip, he not only searched for Brocka's masterpieces at the CCP archives, he also spoke in a lecture for local filmmakers.

The topic: How to pitch your ideas and scripts in Hollywood.

So how do you sell to major studios?

Don't be shy, but you must have a good product, a great script. Half-good's no good. Plus, you need to believe in it. If you yourself have doubts, you can't sell it. I told the young filmmakers about film financing conferences around the world. For example, I am an adviser at the Hong Kong-Asia Film Financing Forum, which takes place during the Hong Kong International Film Festival [in April]. In these events, you can hook up with companies that may finance your projects.

Seems you straddle mainstream and independent filmmaking?

It's a balancing act. In Hollywood, studio movies take time to make because they are constantly in development. With independent films, it's faster and more satisfying because you have more control over the project.

What was it like working with Mark Wahlberg and Lou Diamond Phillips in "The Big Hit?"

It was a very good experience. They're very professional. Lou was a pleasure to work with. We gave him the chance to show off his comic talent. At that time, Mark wasn't a big star yet. That was one of his breakout roles, along with "Boogie Nights."

. . . by working very hard, according to producer and indie champ Roger Garcia

You enjoy working with young people?

I do. It's very important because cinema appeals to people of all ages, but most especially to a young demographic. It's imperative to be open to fresh ideas.

Although "The Big Hit" was a studio film, you followed an indie approach, right?

It was relatively low-budget for a studio movie, made for only $15 million. And it did well. We were No. 1 in the US box office the week we came out.

What could make a small indie film from the Philippines cross over in the world market?

If I knew the formula, I would be selling it. Hahaha! You cannot predict anything in the movie biz. What works in the Philippines may not work abroad. Interestingly though, when I brought Joyce Bernal's "Mr. Suave" to Udine, the Italian audiences loved it.

ROGER Garcia ROMY HOMILLADA

Do you have Filipino blood?

Probably. It's a bit of a mystery. I'm half-Portuguese, but I'm originally from Hong Kong.

What attracts you to Filipino movies?

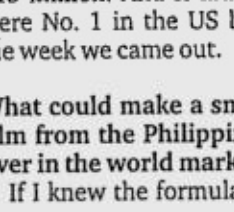
The passion of the filmmakers. The movies also depict relationships realistically, which can be quite harsh and cruel. There is a certain honesty and intensity in Philippine cinema that sets it apart from other Asian movies.

BULL'S-EYE. Julia Clarete and Yul Servo in "Sa Ilalim ng Cogon," an indie feature produced by Garcia

Off-cam tension between Angel and Nadine

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal



TENSION is brewing between **Angel Locsin** AND **Nadine Samonte** on the set of "Darna." What an uncanny coincidence!

The characters (Narda and Ava) they portray in the *telefantasya* are also at odds with each other. Angel happens to be the girlfriend of **Oyo Boy Sotto**, who was previously linked to Nadine. Is this rift the fruit of insecurity or bitterness?

I think both Angel and Nadine are pretty and talented, and so I see no reason for any of them to be affected by the other's presence. Besides, it's rather shallow to be fighting over one guy considering that these girls have countless admirers. There must be a deeper reason.

Angel once said it was better for them not to be chummy, than for them to be "plastic." What matters is that they don't let personal issues get in the way of work.

Funny thing is, **Alessandra de Rossi**, who plays the villainess (Valentina) in the show, is also an ex of Oyo Boy . . . but she's not bothered at all. She's the complete opposite of her role when it comes to dealing with her co-stars Angel and Nadine. What if Oyo Boy were added to the cast to spice things up even more? If and when that happens, the "drama" behind the scenes will surely be more intriguing than the show's plot, huh?

Living in?

Speaking of Alessandra, I cornered her about rumors that she is already living in with **Jeremy Marquez**. She clarified: "Running joke *na kami kunwari ni* Jeremy. We are just so comfy with each other. It's impossible that we're living in. My values are intact. *Hindi ko* carry *ang ganu'n*!" Then she sighed, "My heart is taking a rest for now."

But the actress in her doesn't seem to have time to rest. Her movie, "The Maid," is making raves in Singapore. (She's the only Pinay in this movie from the same producers of "The Eye.") That should be enough to keep her heart smiling.

Bratty and weird

SO MUCH has been written and said about the **Joyce Jimenez-Maui Taylor** "Extra Challenge" rift. But did you know that aside from acting like a "bratinella" during the "EC" shoot, Maui also "shocked" her co-challengers by sniffing a powdered energy drink? She even urged the other stars to try it, saying it was more effective when taken that way. Nobody dared to follow her advice. Maybe they were scared that the side effect of sniffing the powdered drink would turn them into brats, too.

Janno-Bing split-up

AFTER **Bing Loyzaga** announced on nationwide TV that she was splitting up with her husband **Janno**, so many girls have been pinpointed as culprit. If it's any consolation, a guy who has many women is really just playing around. In fact, it could be just a phase that he will eventually outgrow.

What is alarming is when the husband has a serious affair with just one woman. In Janno and Bing's case, Sexbomb dancer **Jopay Paguia**'s name has been dragged into the picture. I know for a fact that there's nothing going on between Janno and Jopay. I hang out with Jopay once in a while and I've met her boyfriend.

But what's this I heard that Janno was allegedly caught by Bing with **Ara Mina**'s half-sister, **Cristine Reyes**? To think Ara has been very vocal about her disapproval of **Keempee de Leon** for her sis because of their huge age difference. Janno also happens to be very much older than Cristine. So I suppose there's no way any relationship between them could prosper? Ara would surely put her foot down, pronto, wouldn't she? But Bing has raised her hands up in surrender already.

OFF-CAM/ A29

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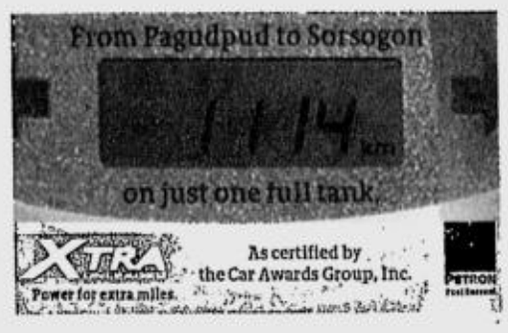

Mall owners open to enercon measures

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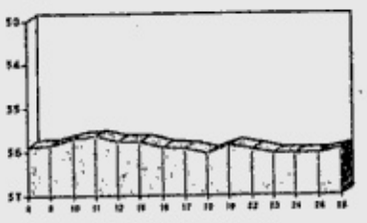

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STOCK MARKET

Stocks seen to weaken

FINANCIAL markets were closed yesterday after the government declared Aug. 29 a special non-working holiday for the public sector in commemoration of National Heroes Day, which fell on Sunday.

The holiday covers government offices except for agencies with emergency functions and the Bureau of Customs.

Markets will reopen today, with local stocks seen reeling from the continued surge in crude oil prices. *Reuters*

WHAT'S INSIDE

Breaktime: Bitter luck next time /B2

Oil firms start selling cheap ethanol gas /B12

By Abigail L. Ho

MALL owners are amenable to the proposal to open their establishments later in the day and closing these later in the night in an effort to manage their electricity demand, and to implement as well some of the government's energy conservation measures.

As world oil prices breached historic highs, the government has put in place several energy conservation measures, mostly voluntary in nature, to ease the country's fuel use.

Reducing mall hours by an hour a day, for example, will already cut the country's fuel requirements by 49,000 barrels of fuel oil equivalent a year, resulting in corresponding savings of P147 million. Setting the temperature level of mall air-conditioners at 25 degrees, on the other hand, will save 149,000 barrels of fuel oil equivalent or P450.8 million a year.

These are just two of the proposed energy conservation measures of the government.

In an interview yesterday, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said big mall owners such as the Ayalas, the Gokongweis and the SM Group were not discounting the possibility of shifting their operating hours to later hours instead of opening at 10 a.m. and closing at around 8 or 9 p.m.

"We've already talked with these mall owners and they're open to that possibility. But there

MALL/ B4

JOAN BONDOC

ENERGY Sec. Rafael Lotilla fills up a car with bioethanol fuel at a Seaoil branch in Edsa as Seaoil president Glenn Yu looks on. The government is promoting the development and use of indigenous alternative fuels as a key measure to attaining energy independence.

OIL CRISIS, VAT EFFECTS

Neda growth targets doubted

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE HOUSE and Senate committees on economic affairs yesterday doubted the National Economic and Development Authority's assessment that the Philippines could still meet the 5.3-percent minimum gross domestic product growth target for this year.

In a joint hearing held at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, committee chairs Rep. Joey Salceda and Sen. Mar Roxas said domestic output this year would likely fall below targets due to the combined impact of rising oil prices and the siphoning effect of the expanded value-added tax.

Salceda said GDP growth in the second semester would likely hit only 4.7 percent, or the same pace of expansion seen in the first half despite the expected recovery in agriculture and some industries.

To meet the 5.3-percent GDP growth targeted by the government for the whole year, the economy must grow by 5.9 percent in the second half.

The Neda had said that it expected the agriculture sector to rebound with a growth of 5.1 percent in the second semester and industry and services by 4.7 percent and 6.5 percent, respectively.

"I think 5.3-percent (GDP growth) is a tall order. Numerically and quantitatively it's not impossible but given the current trend we must do something to make it happen and housing is the way to go," Salceda said.

"Strong domestic housing doesn't use a lot of foreign exchange and there's a lot of excess capacity and support the pent-up demand in the sector," Salceda said.

Roxas, for his part, said the VAT implementation would have a dampening impact on the economy while

NEDA/ B3

2 PNB execs quit

TWO TOP officials of Philippine National Bank, whose controlling stake recently reverted to tobacco magnate Lucio Tan, quit their posts to allow the taipan to consolidate management control of the fully privatized bank.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, the bank said executive vice presidents Ismael Sandig and Francisco Cadiz had tendered their irrevocable resignations effective Aug. 31 and Sept. 15, respectively.

Sandig was in charge of the retail banking sector while Cadiz took care of the asset management group.

Their respective contracts with PNB expired last July but were extended indefinitely to pave the way for the bank's privatization.

The disclosure said the PNB board approved the two officials' resignation during its

2 PNB/ B4

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Bitter luck next time

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

NOBODY can say for sure if those people at the Palace have been reading too much horoscope lately.

It's just that, to us down here in my barangay, they seem to make decisions based on the position of the planets.

In those decisions, which can ultimately affect the lives of more than 80 million people, the key factor has something to do with ... well, good luck.

For example, if this embattled but still-trying-to-be-cute administration would declare a holiday yesterday, would it get lucky and stop the bitter struggle over the impeachment of Gloriaetta?

Unfortunately for us, based on the daily horoscope we find in the newspapers, the planets do not normally care about cuteness.

Thus, the Palace people did not get any clear message from the heavens, regarding the tricky, demanding issue as a working day being turned into an official holiday, as to whether or not it could boost the public image of Gloriaetta, particularly in the business community.

So, okay, yesterday was a holiday, except that it was only a holiday for government offices, except certain bureaus, and it was also a holiday for schools, except for some independent state universities, but it was not a holiday for private companies, except those that would also declare yesterday a holiday on their own.

I mean, come on, what was it really?

* * *

STILL, we must try to understand that this cute administration has been criticized for impromptu holidays.

They added costs to doing business, for one, and too many holidays were just hell on scheduling. Business must meet orders somehow, particularly the export manufacturing sector.

On the other hand, long weekends are good for the domestic tourism business, but this cute administration must learn to announce holidays in advance so that people can plan their vacation.

It was, in short, another political dilemma. Should the Palace please one business sector and displease another?

No wonder the Palace must keep the whole thing hanging.

The result was a lot of confusion. Until late evening last Sunday, everybody was asking everybody else, anybody, whether or not Monday would be a holiday.

Does anybody even mind the gov-

BREAKTIME/ B5

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BSP to build up forex reserves to $18.6B in 2006

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas aims to build up its gross international reserves to an all-time high of $18.65 billion by next year from $17 billion this year despite pressures from maturing debts and a widening trade gap.

Official government documents showed that the GIR forecast for 2006 would be equivalent to 3.4 months worth of imports, maintaining the same ratio targeted for this year.

As of end-July this year, the GIR level has already reached $17.67 billion.

Despite a growing trade deficit due to the ballooning oil import bill, the BSP said the country would continue to benefit from strong foreign exchange flows particularly from the remittances of overseas Filipino workers.

The BSP expects cash transfers from OFWs to grow by at least 10 percent this year to $10 billion and by another 10 percent next year.

The GIR—consisting of the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, special drawing rights from multilateral institutions and foreign investments—is an indicator of ability to service the foreign exchange requirements of the economy such as importation and debt servicing.

The BSP also dips into its foreign reserves to supply dollars to the spot foreign exchange market whenever there is a need to quell speculative attacks against the local currency. A large GIR build-up thus provides psychological support for the peso by improving the BSP's war chest at the foreign exchange market.

As the global economy appeared headed for a slowdown this year, the BSP has factored in the possibility that the country could not rely on export earnings alone to generate foreign exchange inflows.

Given the build-up in the GIR level projected for next year, the BSP expects its balance of payments (BOP) and current account to remain in a surplus.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the economy and the rest of the world. Its major components are the current account and the capital and financial account.

The current account records trade in goods and services as well as transfers while the capital and financial account records loan transactions, investment flows, short-term capital and other related items.

The country's current account is seen to post a surplus of $2.2 billion this year or 2 percent of gross domestic product from a $1.6-billion windfall this year or 1.6 percent of GDP.

Neda growth targets . . .

From page B1

higher utility charges such as for electricity would further suck up consumers' disposable income.

The former trade secretary also said there was nothing much the government could do to perk up growth in agriculture to meet projected targets.

Salceda agreed that there would be some recovery in agriculture in the second semester as threats of an El Niño dryspell had fizzled out, but he said the farm sector would not likely grow as fast as expected by the Neda.

"We've looked at planting intentions and I don't think it will produce 5.1 percent. More or less, it will just potentially grow by 3.5 percent," Salceda said.

"There will also be some further slowdown in services and industry unless the government does something like support construction and housing," Salceda said.

But at the very least, Salceda said the Philippines had reached a stage where politics was no longer a major factor that could weigh down economic output.

"But the basic trend is already pretty much determined by the trend in oil prices and the global economy. The economy is less sensitive to political (upheavals) now due to economic reforms over the last 13 years," Salceda said.

During the presentation to the joint committee, Economic Planning Secretary and Neda director-general Augusto Santos said that despite the dampening impact of skyrocketing oil prices, the economy could still grow by 5.3 percent on stronger agriculture and services expansion in the second semester.

Meanwhile, the Neda chief also presented to the joint committee some downward adjustments in the country's economic growth over the last three years due to the adjustments in imports data using the new input-output accounts.

The adjustments showed that merchandise imports had been undervalued by 11 percent in 2002, 9 percent in 2003 and 11.4 percent in 2004.

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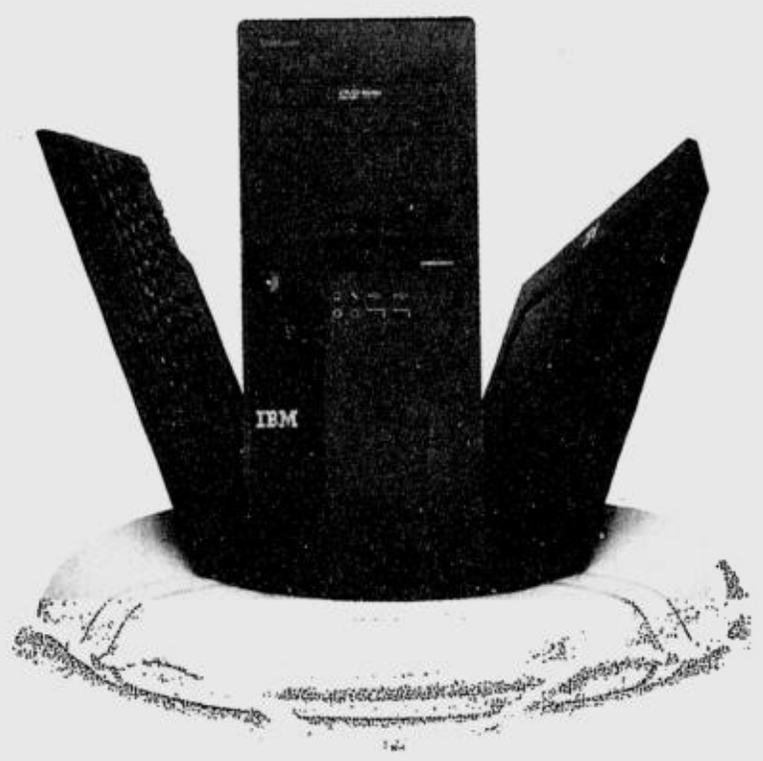

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IMI plans to borrow $80M for Singapore firm acquisition

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

AYALA-LED electronics firm Integrated Microelectronics Inc. (IMI) said it would likely borrow about $80 million to complete its buy-out of Singapore printed circuit board maker Speedy-Tech Electronics Ltd. by November, sources familiar with the deal said.

Ayala Corp. owns 78.7 percent of IMI.

IMI has agreed to merge with Speedy-Tech Electronics upon the completion of its purchase of the Singapore firm's 376.2 million outstanding shares for S$201 million, roughly P6 billion.

IMI has P1.5 billion in cash and is poised to tap its existing credit facilities to raise the additional funding requirement.

Under the merger, all the issued Speedy-Tech shares will be transferred to IMI.

IMI will offer Speedy Tech shareholders cash in the amount of S$0.535 per share or 1.32 new IMI shares for every one Speedy-Tech share, or a combination of both.

The deal means Speedy-Tech will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of IMI and will be delisted from the Singapore Stock Exchange.

Several shareholders representing 64.9 percent of Speedy-Tech's capital stock have signified their intent to receive the share exchange or cash offer.

IMI is studying plans to list in Singapore but this may take some time.

"We are pleased with this development as this is consistent with our objective to position IMI as one of the leading EMS providers in Asia by establishing a global manufacturing footprint. The merger presents synergistic propositions that will be value enhancing to all shareholders," Ayala president and IMI chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala had said.

Should shareholders opt to receive the share exchange offer, Ayala's stake in IMI will be reduced to 64.5 percent. If they would get cash, Ayala's stake would be trimmed to 74.5 percent.

IMI is being advised by Macquarie Securities (Asia) Pte Limited.

Speedy-Tech manufactures printed circuit board assembly and box-build services. It is also an original design manufacturer of power electronics solutions used in telecommunications and consumer electronic devices.

It has capital of S$188.1 million as of June 8. It posted total revenue of S$248 million last year. Speedy-Tech has five production facilities. They are in Singapore, Philippines and China.

"We felt that it was especially important to have a presence in China in order to provide our customers with a broader range of customized solutions for their engineering and manufacturing needs. This merger will enhance our global competitiveness tremendously and we are confident that it will create significant long-term value for our shareholders," IMI president Arthur R. Tan had said.

FILIPINO call center workers man US-Based Sykes Enterprises' unit in Manila. The government projected that the industry would double the number of seats to 80,000 this year. AFP

iVantage selling 30% stake in computer distributor

HOLDING firm iVantage Corp. plans to sell its 30 percent stake in computer distributor Wordtext Systems Inc. for P100 million.

The move is in line with plans to transform the company into a financial services conglomerate.

In a disclosure, iVantage assistant corporate secretary Ethel Maraon said that upon completion of the divestment plan, iVantage will be focusing on its interests in International Exchange Bank, financing company E-Business Services and Philippine Internet search engine Yehey! Corp.

Sources said there was an agreement in principle among major shareholders of Wordtext—led by systems integrator Nexus Technologies Inc.—to buy iVantage's stake.

iVantage chair Roberto Lorayes had said that iVantage's transformation might take place next year upon the completion of its negotiations with other Wordtext shareholders.

Of its information technology assets, iVantage is keeping its 88 percent stake in Yehey! Corp., one of the country's leading search engines and portal.

iVantage raised a little over P100 million after it sold its 40 percent stake in software developer Jupiter Systems Inc., its 73 percent in Infotouch Systems Inc., and recently, its 20 percent interest in Nexus Technologies Inc.

iVantage owns 100 percent of financing company e-Business Services Inc. (eBiz), which recently partnered with one of the country's leading mutual fund PhilEquity Fund to offer mutual fund products to small investors. PhilEquity has been yielding an average annual return of 20 percent since 1994.

iVantage, formerly known as Vantage Equities Inc., was organized primarily to engage in oil and gas exploration, and investments and developments, which are its secondary purposes. In 1997, the company changed its primary purpose to financial holdings and investments. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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(As of August 26, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31.5	31.5	31	31	137,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52	52	51.5	52	499,800
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.61	0.63	0.61	0.63	1,570,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	50	50	50	50	109,400
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	105,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	27.5	28	509,000
Philippine National Bank	37.5	38	37.5	38	19,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	2,000
Security Bank Corp.	29	29.5	29	29.5	59,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	255	255	255	255	100
Manulife Financial Corp.	2810	2810	2810	2810	80
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2030	2030	2030	2030	850
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	4,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1	1.02	1	1.02	90,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	720	725	715	715	13,600
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	1,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	1,300,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3	3.05	3	3.05	1,117,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1535	1565	1535	1560	133,180
Ivantage Corp.	0.62	0.64	0.62	0.63	590,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.017	0.015	0.017	126,600,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	8,000
Manila Electric Co. B	23	23.25	23	23.25	150,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	3,093,000
Petron Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	1,964,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.2	1.32	1.2	1.28	1,701,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	890,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	200,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8	8.1	8	8.1	509,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3	3	3	3	1,277,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	120,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	3,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	30	30	13,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	32.5	32.5	32	32	422,200
RFM Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	70,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	40,000
San Miguel Corp. A	67	67.5	67	67.5	112,100
San Miguel Corp. B	97.5	97.5	97	97	168,600
Universal Robina Corp.	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	1,670,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	700,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.006	0.0075	0.006	0.0075	15,000,000
Ayala Corp.	297.5	302.5	297.5	297.5	39,800
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	5	5	150,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	9.8	10	9.8	10	4,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.02	2.08	2.02	2.08	1,110,000
APC Group Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.26	500,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	11,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.62	0.66	0.62	0.66	4,880,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.11	0.105	0.11	650,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1	1,093,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.245	1,110,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.245	0.25	0.245	0.25	1,080,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.95	3	2.95	3	710,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	616,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	253,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	43.5	43.5	43.5	43.5	607,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.07	0.07	1,100,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	80,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.72	1.76	1.72	1.76	15,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.32	1.36	1.32	1.36	1,762,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	2,960,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	72,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.53	0.55	0.53	0.55	100,000
SM Investments Corp.	213	214	210	211	272,310
South China Resources Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	60,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.175	1,500,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	10,000
Stenlel Manufacturing	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	320,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.72	0.74	0.71	0.71	270,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.42	1.5	1.42	1.5	3,415,000
Manila Jockey Club	3	3	3	3	87,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	250,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	87,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.3	8,976,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	70,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	970,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.36	2,951,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.205	160,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.42	500,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.11	0.125	0.11	0.125	620,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	500,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.2	8,388,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.008	12,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.1	6.7	6.1	6.7	3,764,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.4	8.6	8.4	8.5	28,000
Benguet Corp. B	25	25	25	25	2,500
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.04	2.08	2.04	2.08	104,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.34	13,600,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	14,620,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	12,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.021	0.022	0.021	0.022	73,400,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	49,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.81	0.85	0.81	0.84	4,240,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.95	1.02	0.95	0.99	15,500,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27.5	28	27.5	28	813,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.34	6,130,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	9,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	10,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	70,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	117,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.43	980,000

Mall . . .

From page B1

will have to be a change in the behavioral patterns of consumers," he told reporters.

He said that although people were already used to malls opening before lunch and closing right around dinnertime, it would be better for them to shift operations to more off-peak hours as this would not only reduce their power bills but also improve the country's electricity demand scenario.

National Power Corp. is now implementing a time-of-use (TOU) pricing scheme for its customers. Lopez-led Manila Electric Co. has also filed an application with the Energy Regulatory Commission for TOU rates for end-consumers.

Under the TOU pricing scheme, rates are lowest during off-peak hours, usually from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m., and highest during peak hours, usually from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays and holidays are also considered off-peak hours.

As the term states, electricity demand is highest during peak hours, resulting in high prices.

If malls, for example, would shift their operations to off-peak hours, Lotilla said the demand curve would improve a step toward nationwide demand-side management.

DISCLOSURES

CHINATRUST (Philippines) Commercial Banking Corp. disclosed that lawyer Roel S. Costuna, the company's assistant corporate secretary, is not an owner, directly or indirectly, of any shares of the bank.

***

PHILIPPINE National Bank's board approved the resignations of Ismael R. Sandig, EVP for the retail banking sector, and Federico Y. Cadiz, EVP for the asset management group, effective Aug. 31 and Sept. 15, respectively.

***

FIRST Abacus Financial Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 29, 8 a.m. at the Sta. Maria Function Room, 5/F Discovery Suites, No. 25 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of Aug. 30 are entitled to notice of and vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by: Erika A. Sarmiento, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

August 26, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.812744	1.000000	56.0770
Japan	Yen	0.007386	0.009088	0.5096
United Kingdom	Pound	1.465946	1.803700	101.1461
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.104588	0.128685	7.2163
Switzerland	Franc	0.647089	0.796178	44.6473
Canada	Dollar	0.661890	0.838997	47.0484
Singapore	Dollar	0.486178	0.596193	33.5449
Australia	Dollar	0.617540	0.759821	42.6085
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.155934	2.652661	148.7533
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.216732	0.266667	14.9539
Brunei	Dollar	0.484729	0.596410	33.4449
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000079	0.000097	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.019794	0.024355	1.3658
UAE	Dirham	0.221293	0.272279	15.2686
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.230400	68.9971
Argentina	Peso	0.279774	0.344234	19.3036
Brazil	Real	0.335956	0.413360	23.1800
Denmark	Kroner	0.134140	0.165046	9.2553
India	Rupee	0.018641	0.022936	1.2862
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215697	0.265393	14.8824
Mexico	New Peso	0.075254	0.092593	5.1923
New Zealand	Dollar	0.567044	0.697691	39.1244
Korea	Won	0.000792	0.000974	0.0546
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025205	0.031012	1.7391

2 PNB execs quit

From page B1

executive session last Aug. 26.

PNB itself saw its net profit surging to P315 million in the first semester from P40 million a year ago due to robust interest and fee-based earnings.

As of end-June 2005, non-life insurance unit PNB General Insurers Co. Inc. yielded an unaudited income of P 64.3 million, surpassing its six-month target of P54.1 million.

PNB Capital and Investment Corp. booked a net income of P22.75 million for the first semester, much better than the P16.85 million in earnings a year ago.

Foreign Exchange dealing unit PNB Forex Inc. posted an unaudited income of P6.27 million for the first half as against P8.94 million in the same period last year.

PNB Securities likewise turned in net profits of about P2.68 million. *Doris C. Dumlao*

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- Learn to Intuit and think critically
- Develop the entrepreneurial mindset and kindle the entrepreneurial spirit
- Opportunity seeking and screening
- Business formats and options
- Entrepreneurial Games

VIE-II Building One's Entrepreneurial Skills — October 11 to 29, 2005

Do you want to hone your business skills and expertise in the four management functions?

Course Content:
- Marketing:
  - assessing market potentials
  - determining market feasibility
- Operations
  - matching product to market needs;
  - product development;
  - quality-delivery and productivity models
- Human resource and organizational development
- Finance for start-up enterprises
- Apprenticeship and group exercises

VIE-III Building the Entrepreneurial Enterprise — January 17 to April 5, 2006

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EQUIS ACCREDITED

$375-M Leyte-Mindanao project to be revived

By Abigail L. Ho

WITH ITS five-year budget reinstated to $850 million after having been cut to $500 million earlier, National Transmission Corp. (Transco) said it would revive the $375-million Leyte-Mindanao interconnection project.

Transco president Alan Ortiz said he would personally push for the revival of the project, which was shelved earlier due to budgetary constraints.

"It makes better economic sense now to push through with the project because of the high world oil prices," he told reporters.

He said that plans to develop the Cabalian geothermal facility, which could provide an additional 130 megawatts, could also be revived to serve as Mindanao's power source.

Ortiz had been pushing for the implementation of the Leyte-Mindanao interconnection project to avert a possible power crisis in Mindanao.

If the project would no longer be pursued, he earlier said that two to three baseload plants would have to be constructed in Mindanao to avert a possible power shortfall.

ORTIZ

He said the most practical thing to do, particularly in light of the current oil price crisis, was to pursue the interconnection project.

"Now that the Binan-Dasmarinas upgrade is complete, we've already removed the transmission bottlenecks and Luzon will no longer need the additional capacity imported from Leyte. The power that Luzon used to import from Leyte could now be used solely to address the needs of the Visayas, and the additional geothermal capacity that could be developed in the region could be channeled to Mindanao," he explained.

The Leyte-Mindanao project was shelved also because all the geothermal power generated in Leyte was earmarked for Luzon and Visayas.

But with no more need for Luzon to import power from Leyte, Ortiz said some of the power from geothermal-rich Leyte could already be transported to Mindanao via the Leyte-Mindanao line.

Digitel seeking NTC OK for new offerings

SUN Cellular of Digitel Mobile Philippines Inc. is seeking the approval of the National Telecommunications Commission for a new package of offering.

Part of this offering involves the charging of P1 for every minute of within-network calls from 6 p.m. to a minute before midnight.

From midnight to a minute before 6 a.m., calls within Sun Cellular network will remain unlimited. Within-network text messaging will remain free all day long.

Starting Sept. 1, Sun Cellular will offer its new product called Daylight Call and Text Unlimited or CTU initially in P100 prepaid loads available through electronic loading systems or call cards.

The new deal is expected to replace the popular 24/7 product of the Gokongwei carrier.

The new product, according to Digitel's application with the NTC, should ease network traffic during the peak hours of 6 p.m. to midnight. It submitted to the commission a profile of within-network traffic, which starts to go up at 6 p.m. and peaks between 9 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Sun Cellular said it ended the first half with 1.8 million customers and was on track to its subscriber base target of 2.5 million by yearend.

Clarissa S. Batino

Breaktime

From page B2

ernment store anymore?

* * *

AND so another prized catch of this cute administration just resigned his position because of—what else—politics.

Of course, the Palace propaganda machinery tried to put in play a difference angle to the resignation of Francisco Licuanan as chair of the SBMA.

That's the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, in charge of the free port in the former military base, which is basically a bigtime real estate venture of the government.

Now, before he suffered temporary insanity, which is the only reason I can come up with for an accomplished business executive like Licuanan agreeing to join this cute administration, Licuanan was only the top man of the Ayala real estate group.

And we all know what the "Ayala" name stands for in the property development business. It's almost like the biblical creation story. Everything from out of nothing.

Yet, according to the media spin apparently woven by some PR boys working for the Palace, Licuanan resigned because, in effect, he was a wimp.

They said that he could not cope with the workload in SBMA. They said that he could not work through the intricacy of government bureaucracy.

Really now, those boys should see the workload of corporate executives. Perhaps the Palace's hired hands think that complicated multibillion-peso deals in the private sector just come out of thin air.

* * *

BUT such a spin sounds all too familiar. Look, Ma, it's the same spin that they used to discredit the so-called Hyatt 10.

All of a sudden, based on the Palace-originated spin, those Cabinet members and bureau chiefs who resigned from this cute administration were good-for-nothing, lazy, corrupt heathens practicing bestiality in the slime in the cemetery during full moon.

That kind of ill repute!

Well, they had to downplay somehow the big impact of the resignations on the public image of Gloriaetta. How come she could not keep her good people? Were they afraid that she would devour their internal organs or something like that?

In the same manner, Licuanan represented part of whatever good image was left in this cute administration. As I said, in the beginning, they were playing him up as a prized catch from the private sector.

And rightly so, because the guy is well respected, if not actually well liked, in the business community both here and abroad.

And precisely because of that, his departure from this cute administration was another political blackeye. They simply had to destroy his reputation.

* * *

DESPITE the denial of Sen. Richard Gordon that politics had anything to do with the resignation of Licuanan, the heart of the matter is, it had everything to do with Gordon.

The Palace appointed a man as SBMA administrator who is widely known to be a protégé of the senator at the Department of Tourism.

Now, don't get me wrong. The new SBMA administrator is highly qualified. There is no question about that. It is not the fault of the appointee.

It's just that, to stay in power, this besieged cute administration is busy entering into political compromises left and right, over and above the "charm offensive" in media.

Earlier, word went around that, on the surface, the Palace was shopping around for a new SBMA administration. On the surface!

But everybody already knew that the next SBMA administrator would likely be the one recommended by Gordon.

As a matter of fact, Gloriaetta listens to Gordon all the time, when it comes to the SBMA.

After the elections last year, for instance, one of the biggest campaign contributors to this cute administration was asking Gloriaetta to keep the then SBMA chair, none other than Felicito "Tong" Payumo.

Of course, the idea did not sit well with Gordon, since he and Payumo were not exactly the best of friends.

Guess what? Gordon won and Payumo had to go! The only thing was, Gloriaetta appointed another man, who was Licuanan, and not Gordon's man.

As another political compromise, Gloriaetta took a lot of power from the SBMA chair by creating a position called "administrator."

Which is perhaps against the law, but then again who cares, especially since this cute administration gets away with anything, including stealing the elections.

* * *

THAT'S probably what Licuanan could not take anymore. Since the day-to-day function of the SBMA belongs to somebody else, Licuanan probably figured that he needed his own guy as administrator.

And I can understand the reason behind it. You always want your own team, so that you do not have to watch your back all the time against intrigues, and you do not have to look over their shoulders most of the time to watch their work, and you do not have to peep through the keyhole to check on their morality.

Licuanan, from the beginning, told Gloriaetta that he would choose his own team. And so Gloriaetta just had to appoint somebody without asking for Licuanan's opinion.

And that's despite the verbal agreement between Licuanan and Gloriaetta from the start. Well, what's new, right? Gloriaetta gained popularity for saying one thing and then doing another.

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MINORS BELOW 13 YEARS OLD WILL NOT BE ADMITTED

ASIAFOOD EXPO 2005
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World Trace Center Metro Manila
September 7 - 10, 2005 · Seminar Rooms 1 & 2

DAY 1: September 7, 2005 - Wednesday
- THAI NOODLES TRY AND TASTE THE DIFFERENCE!
  Session 1 (2:30 to 3:30 PM) Seminar Room 1
  Presented by: Yihrong Trading Corp.
- PNEUMATIC SOLUTIONS FOR FOOD PROCESSING
  Session 2 (2:30 to 3:30 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Shoketsu SMC Corporation
- DISCOVERING THE LATEST VIDEO MANAGEMENT SECURITY SYSTEM FOR YOUR BUSINESS
  Session 3 (4:00 to 5:00 PM) Seminar Room 1
  Presented by: Microserve Company
- INTRODUCTION ON NEW TECHNOLOGY OF COOKING - COOKTEK INDUCTION COOKING EQUIPMENT
  Session 4 (4:00 to 5:00 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: RBN Kitchenworld Supplies
- PIZZA PEDRICO'S DEALERSHIP
  Session 5 (5:30 to 6:30 PM) Seminar Room 1
  Presented by: Pizza Pedrico's Food Corp.

DAY 2: September 8, 2005 - Thursday
- UNDERSTANDING FOUNDATION FIELDBUS TECHNOLOGY
  Session 6 (1:00 to 2:00 PM) Seminar Room 1
  Presented by: Trigon Management & Ind'l. Corp.
- MATSTONE MULTI PURPOSE JUICE EXTRACTOR PRODUCT ORIENTATION
  Session 7 (1:00 to 2:00 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: IAJ Corporation
- OVERVIEW ON FOOD SAFETY & FOOD MICROBIOLOGY
- FOOD SAFETY & QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAMS
  Session 8 (2:30 to 3:30 PM) Seminar Room 1
  Presented by: Intertek Testing Services Phils., Inc.
- SAN MIGUEL PUREFOODS GREAT FOOD SOLUTIONS PRODUCT PRESENTATION
  Session 9 (2:30 to 3:30 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: San Miguel Purefoods Great Food Solutions
- THE LATEST & COST EFFECTIVE APPROACH IN MATERIAL HANDLING
  Session 10 (4:00 to 5:00 PM) Seminar Room 1
  Presented by: Handyware Phils., Inc.
- INNOVATIVE PACKAGING AND INSPECTION SOLUTIONS
  Session 11 (4:00 to 5:00 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Versa Group
- COCOA PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY & QUALITY
  Session 12 (5:30 to 6:30 PM) Seminar Room 1
  Presented by: Handyware Phils., Inc.
- SHOWCASE OF PROFITABLE SMALL FRANCHISE
  Session 13 (5:30 to 6:30 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Francon, Inc.

DAY 3: September 9, 2005 - Friday
- FLUID HANDLING & PROCESS MEASUREMENT
  Session 14 (1:00 to 2:00 PM) Seminar Room 1
  Presented by: Inter Conglomerates, Inc.
- THE FANTASY AND REALITY OF PACKAGING
  Session 15 (1:00 to 2:00 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: San Miguel Packaging Products
- ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY & SAFE FUEL FOR CATERING
  Session 16 (2:30 to 3:30 PM) Seminar Room 1
  Presented by: Eagle-Wings International Corp.
- STEAM BOILER EFFICIENCY
  Session 17 (2:30 TO 3:30 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Cimech Systems Construction, Inc.
- SANITATION & CLEANING THE NILFISK WAY
  Session 18 (4:00 TO 5:00 PM) Seminar Room 1
  Presented by: Handyware Philippines, Inc.
- MAXIGAS NITROGEN GAS GENERATORS FOR BETTER QUALITY FOOD & BEVERAGE PACKAGING
  Session 19 (4:00 to 5:00 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Flik Industries, Inc.
- LOW CAPITAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
  Session 20 (5:30 TO 6:30 PM) Seminar Room 1
  Presented by: Handyware Phils., Inc.
- WHAT'S NEW FROM FERNA? NEW PRODUCTS. NEW OPPORTUNITIES
  Session 21 (5:30 to 6:30 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Ferna Corporation

DAY 4: September 10, 2005 - Saturday
- FRANCHISE YOUR BUSINESS
  Session 22 (9:00 to 12:00 NN) Seminar Room 1
  Presented by: Philippine Franchise Assn. (PFA)
- A TO Z OF BUYING A FRANCHISE
  Session 23 (9:00 to 12:00 NN) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Philippine Franchise Assn (PFA)
- JURA "FIT FOR COFFEE" PRESENTATION: ADVANTAGES FOR SUPER-AUTOMATICS PROPER CARE OF MACHINES & THE TECHNOLOGY BEHIND IT
  Session 24 (1:00 to 2:00 PM) Seminar Room 1
  Presented by: Conlins Coffee World Inc.
- THE ART OF FOOD TECHNOLOGY "LONG-LIFE CAKES AND SOUP FLAVORINGS"
  Session 25 (1:00 to 2:00 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Kital Philippines Corp.
- HOW TO START A COFFEE CART BUSINESS
  Session 26 (2:30 to 3:30 PM) Seminar Room 1
  Presented by: Allegro Beverage Corp.
- PIZZA PEDRICO'S DEALERSHIP
  Session 27 (2:30 to 3:30 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Pizza Pedrico's Food Corp

ASIAFOOD EXPO 2005
COOKING DEMO / PRODUCT PRESENTATION
World Trace Center Metro Manila
September 7 - 10, 2005 · Exhibition Hall - Activity Area

September 7, 2005 - Wednesday
- "NEW PRODUCTS FROM DEL MONTE"
  Session 1 - 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 N.N.
  Presented by: Del Monte Philippines, Inc.
- "COOKING MADE EASY BY KLG"
  Session 2 - 1:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.
  Presented by: KLG International Inc.
- "INTERNATIONAL CUISINE"
  Session 3 - 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.
  Presented by: Metro Kitchenware, Inc.
- "TASTE THE RICHNESS OF ASIA"
  Session 4 - 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.
  Presented by: Sysu International, Inc.

September 8, 2005 - Thursday
- "THE GOOD LIFE" & "THE PARADIGM CHEF"
  Session 5 - 11:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.
  Presented by: Concept One
- "TASTE THE RICHNESS OF ASIA"
  Session 6 - 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.
  Presented by: Sysu International, Inc.

September 9, 2005 - Friday
- "COOKING DEMO"
  Session 7 - 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 N.N.
  Presented by: Bounty Agro Ventures, Inc.
- "CHOCOLATE MAMBO, CHURROS CON CHOCOLATE & DELICIOUS BROWNIES"
  Baking Demo
  Session 8 - 1:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.
  Presented by: Antonio Pueo Incorporada
- COOKING DEMO
  Session 9 - 2:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.
  Presented by: Yihrong Trading Corp.
- "COOKING DEMO"
  Session 10 - 3:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.
  Presented by: Unilever Foodsolutions

September 10, 2005 - Saturday
- "CHEF MEETS THE BAKER"
  BY Magnolia Inc.
  Session 11 - 11:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.
  Presented by: San Miguel Purefoods, Inc.

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Republic of the Philippines

ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

(ERC)

San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF AN ALTERNATIVE FORM OF RATE SETTING METHODOLOGY FOR THE NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TransCo) AND ANY FUTURE CONCESSIONAIRE THEREOF FOR THE SECOND REGULATORY PERIOD OF 2006-2010

("Application")

ERC CASE NO. 2005-_____

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
(TransCo),
and
POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT (PSALM) CORPORATION,
(Applicants).

x----------x

A P P L I C A T I O N

Applicants **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION**, ("TransCo", for brevity) and the **POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION** ("PSALM", for brevity) through counsels, unto this most Honorable Commission, respectfully state that:

1. TransCo is a government-owned and -controlled corporation (GOCC) created by virtue of Section 8 of Republic Act No.9136, otherwise known as the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001," or the "EPIRA." It is responsible for the planning, construction, and centralized operation and maintenance of high-voltage transmission facilities nationwide, including those of grid interconnections, as well as the provision of ancillary and other related services;

2. TransCo is likewise mandated to provide open and non-discriminatory access to its transmission system to all electricity users and, accordingly, assess and collect transmission charges subject to the approval of this Honorable Commission;

3. As a System Operator, TransCo shall also provide central dispatch of all generation facilities connected, directly or indirectly, to the transmission system in accordance with the dispatch schedule submitted by the market operator, taking into account outstanding bilateral contracts;

4. Pursuant to Section 8 of the EPIRA, TransCo shall be wholly-owned by PSALM, a GOCC created pursuant to Section 49 of the EPIRA;

5. Pursuant to Section 43(f) of the EPIRA, the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) developed, approved and adopted the Guidelines on the Methodology for the Setting of Transmission Wheeling Rates (TWRG), a new methodology for setting the transmission wheeling rates of TransCo based on the Maximum Annual Revenue (MAR) Cap. The TWRG was promulgated on May 29, 2003;

6. Article VII, (Regulatory Reset Process) of the TWRG sets forth the process that the ERC will follow in determining the price control arrangements that are to be made applicable for the Second Regulatory Period. On September 20, 2004, the ERC, consistent with Section 7.1.2 of the TWRG, published a Regulatory Reset Issues Paper (Issues Paper) to:

   (a) Provide the ERC's initial views on the issues to be discussed during the Regulatory Reset Process;

   (b) Guide TransCo in preparing the information required to be delivered by TransCo for the purposes of the Regulatory Reset Process; and

   (c) Specify the time by which such information shall be delivered;

7. Section 1.2.2 of the Issues Paper requires TransCo to submit to the ERC its filing for the Regulatory Reset, including all data, reports, forecast and information required by the TWRG for this process, not later than August 31, 2005. This Application, and its supporting annexes and attachments, fulfil that requirement. These reports, assumptions and the approach taken by TransCo in the preparation of this filing are summarized in Annex "A";

8. Article VII of the TWRG requires that the filing include independent expert reports with respect to each of the following:

   (a) An asset re-valuation referred to in Section 4.6 of the TWRG. This requirement is met by Asset Re-valuation Report prepared by Sinclair Knight Merz (SKM) in association with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), and Cuervo Appraisers, Incorporated (for convenience referred to as "SKM et. Al."), hereto attached as Annex "B" to form part of this submission;

   (b) A report on the condition and lives of assets that are used in providing regulated transmission services and referred to in Section 4.8.3 of the TWRG. This requirement is the report prepared by SKM et. Al., hereto attached as part of Annex "B";

   (c) A determination of the Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC) referred to in Section 4.9 of the TWRG. The Applicants have complied with this requirement through the report prepared by Professor Tony van Zijl, Ph.D., professor of Accounting and Finance at Victoria University, with a Doctorate in Finance, and Director of LECG, hereto attached as Annex "C";

   (d) A review of the Regulated Entity's proposed capital expenditure (CAPEX) referred to in Section 4.10 of the TWRG. Applicants have complied with this requirement through the report prepared by SKM, hereto attached to form part of this submission as Annex "D";

   (e) A review of the Regulated Entity's proposed operating and maintenance expenditure (OPEX) referred to in Section 4.11 of the TWRG. Applicants have complied with this requirement through the report prepared by SKM, hereto attached to form part of this submission as Annex "E".

9. In their desire to assist this Honorable Commission, the Applicants likewise engaged the services of an independent taxation expert, Atty. Edmundo P. Guevara, former Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and with countless local and foreign contributions on the matter of taxation, to provide an opinion on the taxes for which TransCo and the prospective concessionaire may be held liable. Atty. Guevara's report is attached hereto to form part of this submission as Annex "F".

10. Article IV of the TWRG provides that TransCo submit to the ERC, in addition to the experts' reports identified above, the following information and forecasts:

   (a) The Regulated Entity's forward forecasts of its proposed annual capital expenditure for each Regulatory Year in the Second Regulatory Period. Applicants have complied with this requirement through the forecasts summarized in Annex "A", and the detailed forecasts in the format requested by the ERC in its Issues Paper, which are set out in Schedule 1 of Annex "A";

   (b) The Regulated Entity's historical operating and maintenance expenditure for each of the three (3) calendar years preceding the commencement of the Secondary Regulatory Period. This requirement is met with actual data for 2003, 2004 and estimated data for 2005. This information is summarized in Annex "A", and the detailed information in the format requested by the ERC in its Issues Paper, is set out in Schedule 2 of Annex "A".

   (c) The Regulated Entity's forward forecasts of its proposed annual operating and maintenance expenditure for each Regulatory Year in the Second Regulatory Period. Applicants have complied with this requirement through the forecasts summarized in Annex "A", and the detailed forecasts in the format requested by the ERC in its Issues Paper, set out in Schedule 3 of Annex "A";

   (d) A summary of the Regulated Entity's historical payments of taxes, levies and duties (other than corporate income tax) for each of the three (3) calendar years preceding the commencement of the Second Regulatory Period. Applicants have complied with this requirement with actual data for 2003, 2004 and estimated data for 2005. This information is summarized in Annex "A", and the detailed information in the format requested by the ERC in its Issues Paper, is set out in Schedule 4 of Annex "A";

   (e) The Regulated Entity's forward forecasts of its expected payments of taxes, levies and duties (other than corporate income tax) for each Regulatory Year in the Second Regulatory Period. Applicants have complied with this requirement through the forecasts summarized in Annex "A" , and the detailed forecasts in the format requested by the ERC in its Issues Paper, set out in Schedule 5 of Annex "A";

11. In compliance with the Issues Paper, the Applicants have also obtained independent expert advice, and prepared supporting information and analyses on the following matters:

   a. Matters pertaining to the roll forward of the initial Regulated Asset Base (RAB) as of December 31, 2004 up to December 31, 2005. This report prepared by SKM et al., hereto attached as part of Annex "B", complies with the requirement;

   b. Matters pertaining to the roll forward of RAB as of December 31, 2005 to the end of the Second Regulatory Period (Sections 4.7 and 4.8, TWRG). These matters are discussed in Annex "A";

   c. Matters relating to service quality measures and targets, including a performance incentive scheme (Article VIII, TWRG), are summarized in Annex "A", and supported by Schedule 6 of Annex "A";

   d. The issues identified in Chapter 8 of the Issues Paper are discussed in Annex "A";

   e. Information regarding TransCo and PSALM's services, business processes and cost drivers, is provided in Annex "A".

12. To assist the Commission in evaluating this application and the supporting information and expert reports, TransCo commissioned a pool of independent experts led by Mr Kieran Murray, to build a computerized model. This model calculates the efficiency factor and price path Smoothed Maximum Allowable Revenue (SMAR) for each year of the Second Regulatory Period. It provides for the outcomes and advice of the experts, or alternative assumptions, to be modeled. The model is capable of calculating the efficiency factor and price path under a range of values and scenarios for the major building blocks. The model is summarized in Annex "A", and an electronic copy of the model is provided in Schedule 7 of Annex "A".

13. Annex "A" also sets out the following:

   (a) Applicants' interpretation and understanding of the Second Regulatory Reset and its underlying principles and objectives;

   (b) The key assumptions, statements, calculations, and declarations made in order to come up with a preliminary indication of the Maximum Allowable Revenue (MAR) for the Second Regulatory Period, and the Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR) for each year within that five (5) - year period;

   (c) Applicants also provide position and comments on the following issues:

      c.1 Treatment of CWIP
      c.2 Treatment of working capital
      c.3 Tax timing issues
      c.4 Efficiency carry-forward mechanism
      c.5 Form of regulation

14. The following tables summarize the key forecasts and information submitted by TransCo and the results obtained from the MAR model,

   (a) The table below sets out the proposed annual capital expenditures (CAPEX) of TransCo from CY 2005 to 2010:

Capex (in Millions)	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
	Actual (real adjusted)		Budget	Forecast (nominal, in Millions)				
PhP/USD				58.34	59.98	61.03	61.69	62.35
In *USD*	41.7	34.7	50.5	116.0	161.6	79.9	41.8	34.3
In *PhP*	3,563.1	6,59-1.9	3,587.6	4,539.6	6,117.6	4,788.5	2,661.9	2,489.6
Total USD equivalent	105.3	152.5	114.6	202.7	286.8	180.0	99.9	90.54
Total Capex in PhP	5,898.4	8,540.4	6,416.9	11,827.2	17,203.2	10,986.6	6,163.3	5,645.3

Note: Capex included in the rolled forward of December 2004 RAB to December 2005 is P5,459Mn, reflecting the value of Capex on assets expected to be commissioned in 2005.

   (b) To rationalize its proposed operating and maintenance expenditures, TransCo modified its forecast operating expenditure. Accordingly, the forecast operating expenditure proposed for this filing is set out in the table below.

Revised Opex Forecast (PhP Mn, Nominal)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Exchange Rate (PhP/USD)	56.00	58.34	59.98	61.03	61.69	62.35
CPI USA	3.2%	2.9%	2.9%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%
CPI Philippines	8.2%	7.2%	5.8%	4.6%	3.9%	3.9%
Total Operating & Maintenance Expenditure	4,437	5,401	5,932	6,774	7,285	7,854

   (c) The table below sets out the assumptions used by the Applicants in the calculation of the applicable taxes, levies, and duties:

Taxes	Tax Rate	Basis
1. Income Tax	2006 to 2008 – 35% 2009 to 2010 - 30%	Taxes are paid in succeeding period(2006 paid in 2007, 2007 paid in 2008, etc.), as per TWRG requirement.Adjustment to working capital to fund tax payments.
2. Franchise Tax a. National b. Local	 exempt 75% of 1%	 Gross receipts of the preceding year
3. Real Property Tax		Inputs from the Regional Finance
4. Taxes & Duties		Inputs from the Regional Finance
5. Local Business Tax - Transco - Concessionaire	 75% of 1% 75% of 1%	 - Gross Receipts of the preceding - Gross Receipts of the preceding year of the Concessionaire
6. Other taxes a. Local transfer tax b. DST	 75% of 1% P15 for every P1,000	 - Cost of the New Projects - Inputs from TransCo Finance

   (d) The value of the RAB over the Second Regulatory Period with adjustments is forecast in the table below:

Particulars (PhP, Mn)	2006	2007	2008	2009
$RAB_{(t)o}$	159,457.9	164,843.7	176,152.4	180,937.5
RAB $RegDepn_{(t)}$	4,994.2	4,994.2	4,994.2	4,994.2
Capex $_{(t)}$	11,827.2	17,203.3	10,986.6	6,163.3
Disposals $_{(t)}$	997.7			
Capex $RegDepn_{(t)}$	449.6	900.4	1,207.4	1,415.1
$RAB_{(t)}$	164,843.7	176,152.4	180,937.5	180,691.5

Note: Assumed WACC of 22% as recommended by Independent Expert, Prof. Tony Van Zijl, Ph.D.

   (e) The proposed performance indicators and the corresponding weights are set out in the table below. The proposed weightings are based on an assessment of the impacts of the different performance indicators for end users.

Performance Indicator	Weighted Percentage, %
1. System Interruption Severity Index (SISI)	30
2. Frequency of Tripping per 100 ckt-km (FOT/100ckt-km)	25
3. System Availability (SA)	25
4. Frequency Limit Compliance (FLC)	10
5. Voltage Limit Compliance (VLC)	10

15. In securing the independent experts and experts' reports referred to above, the applicants adhered strictly to Article VII of the TWRG and Section 53 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act." The said independent experts were provided by TransCo and PSALM with full cooperation and support, in the form of extensive information, full access to premises, records and assets, and reasonable funding, pursuant to Section 14.3 of the TWRG;

    They were evaluated on the basis of Article XIV and Appendix B of the TWRG. The selection process strictly observed transparency, integrity, fair play, and the absence of any conflicts of interest;

16. This submission is with the approval of the respective Boards of Directors (BODs) of TransCo and PSALM. Attached hereto as Annexes "G" and "H", respectively, are the resolutions of the TransCo and PSALM Boards approving this submission;

17. In compliance with the requirements of Section 4 (e) of Rule 3 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the EPIRA, this Application has been published in a newspaper of general circulation and the Office of the Quezon City and Makati City local governments have been provided with the copy of this Application;

18. This Application, and the supporting annexes and attachments, comprise the filing required of the "Regulated Entity" (that is TransCo), for the Second Regulatory Period;

19. The following proposals for the Second Regulatory Period (2006-2010), to wit;

    i. Optimized Depreciated Replacement Cost of TransCo's Regulatory Asset Base (RAB) rolled forward from 2004 to 2010;
    ii. Forecast Capital Expenditures (CAPEX);
    iii. Forecast Operating and Maintenance Expenditures (OPEX);
    iv. Tax Items and Assumptions;
    v. Working Capital;
    vi. Performance Incentive Schemes;
    vii. WACC as recommended by Professor Tony Van Zijl, Ph.D.,

    are designed and developed in accordance with the provisions of the TWRG and the Regulatory Reset Issues Paper as would lay down a basis for fair and reasonable set of smoothed MARs for the Second Regulatory Period that will serve the public interest and convenience and signal the efficient utilization of transmission facilities that will ultimately redound to the best interest and benefit of the consumers.

P R A Y E R

WHEREFORE, it is most respectfully prayed of this Honorable Commission to approve the following in the Commission's determination of the set of smoothed Maximum Allowable Revenues (MAR) for the second regulatory period:

(i) Optimized Depreciation Replacement Cost of TransCo's rolled forward Regulatory Asset Base (RAB) from 2004 to 2010;
(ii) The Forecast Capital Expenditures (CAPEX)
(iii) The Forecast Operating and Maintenance Expenditures (OPEX)
(iv) The Working Capital Proposals
(v) The Tax items and assumptions
(vi) The Performance Incentive Schemes

In addition, Applicants also respectfully pray to this Honorable Commission to consider the expert's report on Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC) in the calculation of TransCo's set of smoothed Maximum Allowable Revenues (MAR) for the Second Regulatory Period, commencing January 2006.

Applicants pray for other reliefs deemed just and equitable under the premises.

Quezon City and Makati City for Pasig City, August 29, 2005.

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(TransCo)

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(Republic of the Philippines)
(Quezon City) S.S.

VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION

I, **ALAN T. ORTIZ, Ph.D.**, of legal age, married, with office address at the Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City, after having been duly sworn to in accordance with law, do hereby depose and state that:

(1) I am the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Transmission Corporation ("TransCo"), one of the herein "Applicants;"

(2) I have caused the preparation of the instant "Joint Application" and the allegations therein contained are true and correct based on my personal knowledge and the records available to Applicant-TransCo;

(3) I have not commenced any other action or proceeding involving the same issues in the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals or any court, tribunal, or quasi-judicial agency and, to the best of my knowledge, no such other action or claim is pending therein; and

(4) If I should hereinafter learn that the same or a similar action or claim has been filed or is pending in the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals or any court, tribunal, or quasi-judicial agency, I shall report the said fact within five (5) days from discovery thereof to the Honorable Commission.

August 29, 2005, Quezon City, Philippines.

ALAN T. ORTIZ, Ph.D.
Affiant

SUBSCRIBED and SWORN TO before me this 29 day of August, 2005, with affiant **ALAN T. ORTIZ, Ph.D.** presenting to me his Community Tax Certificate No. 15653418 issued on January 6, 2005 at Quezon City, Philippines, known to me and to me known to be the same person who executed the foregoing "**Joint Application**" consisting of fifteen (15) pages, including this page where this Acknowledgment is written.

ANGRICA J. CASTILLO
NOTARY PUBLIC
My commission expires on 2005
PTR NO. 0135928
IBP NO. 628440

Doc. No. 375;
Page No. 76;
Book No. IX;
Series of 2005.

(Republic of the Philippines)
(Makati City) S.S.

VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION

I, **NIEVES L. OSORIO** of legal age, married, with office address at the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM), 2nd Floor, SGV Building, 6758 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, after having been duly sworn to in accordance with law, do hereby depose and state that:

(1) I am the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM), one of the herein "Applicants;"

(2) I have read the foregoing Application and the allegations therein are true and correct based on my personal knowledge and the authentic records available to Applicant-PSALM;

(3) I have not commenced any other action or proceeding involving the same issues in the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals or any court, tribunal, or quasi-judicial agency and, to the best of my knowledge, no such other action or claim is pending therein; and

(4) If I should hereinafter learn that the same or a similar action or claim has been filed or is pending in the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals or any court, tribunal, or quasi-judicial agency, I shall report the said fact within five (5) days from discovery thereof to the Honorable Commission.

August 29, 2005, Makati City, Philippines.

NIEVES L. OSORIO
Affiant

SUBSCRIBED and SWORN TO before me this 29 day of August, 2005, with affiant **NIEVES L. OSORIO** presenting to me her Community Tax Certificate No. 14023375 issued on June 9, 2005 at Manila, Philippines, known to me and to me known to be the same person who executed the foregoing "**Joint Application**" consisting of fifteen (15) pages, including this page where this Acknowledgr

NOTARY PUBLIC
My commission expires on
CECILIO B. GELLADA, JR.
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2006
PTR No. 9473127C (1-21-05) Makati
Roll of Attorney No. 30354

Doc. No. 247;
Page No. 63;
Book No. II;
Series of 2005.

Note: This document may also be downloaded at ***www.transco.ph***

(PDI - Aug. 30, 2005)

Transco receives ISO certification

THE NATIONAL Transmission Corporation (TransCo) has received an ISO 9001:2000 international certification for quality management system for one of its key functional units, the Engineering Design and Construction (EDC) group.

TransCo president and chief executive officer Dr. Alan T. Ortiz said the distinction is "a welcome addition to our collective effort to continuously improve our systems and processes to provide even better service to the nation."

He also commended EDC's efforts to uphold the value of excellence in delivering quality service to electricity consumers by following the lead of four other TransCo functional groups which have attained the ISO seal of quality management – System Operations in October 2003; Visayas Operation and Maintenance in December 2004; North Luzon Operation and Maintenance in April 2005; and Project Management last month.

"We remain very focused on our commitment to get the ISO certification for the whole corporation by year-end. Other TransCo units are in various stages of ISO compliance at this point," he said.

EDC implements and manages power transmission projects under the Transmission Development Program (TDP) and ensures their timely completion in accordance with power industry standards. It takes the lead role in designing, constructing and expanding electric power transmission facilities nationwide and has a total manpower of 541.

It was awarded the ISO certificate last August 12 in a ceremony led by TUV Philippines officials Christian Delamarian and Geroldo Ramon Querijero and EDC Vice President Winifredo SM. Pangilinan.

TUV Philippines — an independent certification and inspection body — undertook the stringent audit procedures to check EDC's compliance with quality assurance standards and requirements of the International Organization for Standardization, a Geneva-based federation of around 130 countries.

Dr. Ortiz added that the state-owned transmission firm's customers – distribution utilities, electric cooperatives, as well as other directly connected industrial power users — and ultimately, households and end-users are assured of TransCo's high quality of service as affirmed by the ISO certification.

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Asset Name/ Location	Indicative Price (In Philippine Currency)	Date of Submission Of Offers
Atlas Developer and Steel Industries, Inc. located at Jenny's Ave., Rosario, Pasig City		
Lot No. 1 Buildings	P760,000	September 15, 2005
Lot No. 2 Land and other improvements (i.e., perimeter fence and gate)	P22,018,000	
Elorde Sports and Toursim Development Corp. Land (5,500 sq.m.) located at Sucat Road, Parañaque City	P110,000.000	September 28, 2005

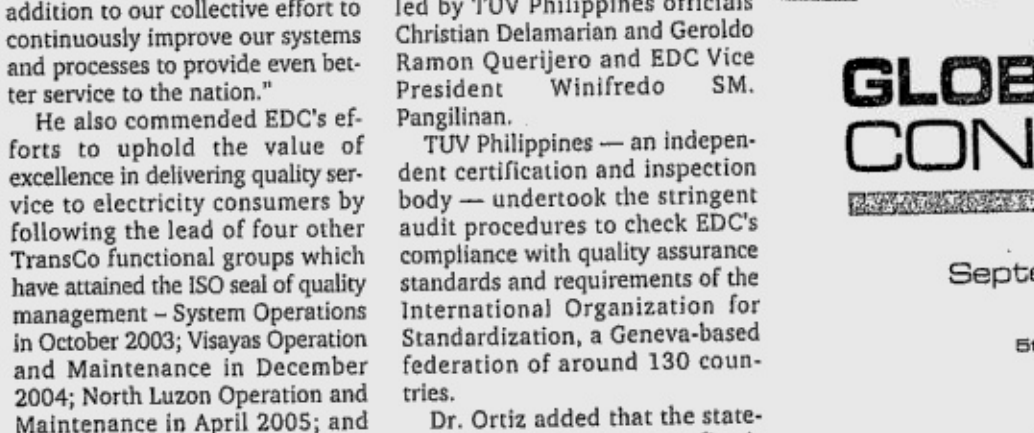
Offers for Lot No. 2 (Land and other improvements) in Atlas Developer and Steel Industries, Inc. shall only be opened if a valid and acceptable offer is received for Lot No. 1 (Buildings)

Interested parties may secure the sale documents from the PMO Marketing Dept. at non-refundable fees of P500.00 for each asset. A Gate Pass shall be issued to interested parties upon request.

Interested parties are advised to deal directly with the PMO Marketing Department.

For more information, please contact Ms. Melinda B. Cortez of the PMO Marketing Dept. at telephone nos. 892-2145 or 818-4733.

(PDI–August 29, 30 & 31, 2005)



PANGILINAN RECEIVES ISO CERTIFICATE
Winifredo Pangilinan, vice president for Engineering, design, and Contruction receives the ISO 9001:2000 certificate from Cristian Dalamarian and Geroldo Ramon Querijero of TUV. Also in picture are Rico Vega, Acting AVP for Engineering design, president Alan Ortiz, and Carmelino de Leon, AVP for engineering construction.

First National Bamboo Music Festival

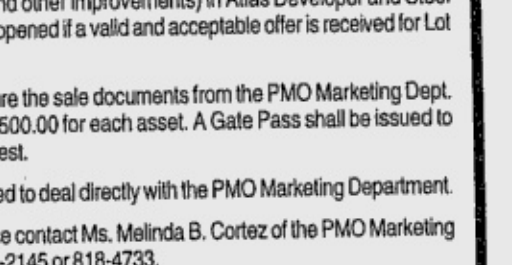
THE NATIONAL Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Musicological Society of the Philippines in cooperation with the UP College of Music, St. Paul University-Manila and the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music present Tawag ng Bantulal, the First National Bamboo Music Festival from September 21-23.

The festival, through lectures, workshops and performances, will look into the history and cultural geography of bamboo as a musical instrument; the sonic possibilities of bamboo; and bamboo in relation to other art forms.

The three-day festival will feature, among others, the music of Tausug Biyula and Gabbang Ensemble, Roxas Ahadas Ensemble (Yakan), Musikalinangan, Maasin Central School Tultugan Ensemble, Pangkat Kawayan "The Singing Bamboos of the Phils.", Dallelet Ensemble of Angadanan, Isabela, Banda Sta. Clara (Musikong Bumbongof Obando), and Benny Sokkong and Pasiking Ensemble.

Interested participants to lectures, workshops and performances, may call 926-0028, 09196305004 or email: musikologo2003@yahoo.com. Special rates for the 3-day workshop are available to student groups.

Banda Sta. Clara (Musikong Bumbong of Obando)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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ROSA Y. ALVAREZ has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. No. 239, Page No. 48, Book No. XVIII, Series of 2005 before Notary Public Robert Michael A. Natividad of San Mateo, Rizal (PDI-Aug. 23, 30 & Sept. 6, 2005)

From the People of Japan

Let's Study in Japan

Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) in the Republic of the Philippines 2006-2007

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has started the implementation of the Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) through the assistance of the Government of Japan for Japanese Fiscal Year 2002.

The objective of the JDS Project is to provide Philippine nationals with opportunities for obtaining master's degree at the Japanese universities in order to support human resource development policy of the Government of the Philippines, and eventually to extend and strengthen the bilateral relationship between the Philippines and Japan.

The JDS Project targets young people in public sector who are expected to play leadership roles in the Philippines and people in private sector who are expected to contribute to the development of the Philippines market economy.

Degree to be obtained and Field of Study

1. Degree: Master's Degree only (1.5-2.5 years courses)
2. Field of Study (number of scholars to be accepted)
   2-1. *(for public sector)*
   -Public Administration (10 persons)
   -Economics (8 persons)
   -Information and Communication Technology (3 persons)
   -Business Administration (2 persons)
   2-2. *(for public and private sectors)*
   -Business Administration (2 persons)
3. Language of Instruction: predominantly English

Qualification Requirements:

1) Nationality: Filipino
2) Age: Below 40 years old as of April 1, 2006. (Those who were born on/after April 2, 1966)
3) Academic background: Applicants should have bachelor's degree relevant to the target fields of study, except for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) field that requires bachelor's degree in ICT or equivalent is required.
4) Working experience: At least 2 years of working experience at the time of nomination and presently employed
5) English language proficiency level: IELTS 6.0 TOEFL 550 (CBT 213) or above is required
6) Military personnel are not eligible to apply
7) Currently or in the past, those who have been awarded foreign scholarship for Master's degree are not eligible to apply.
8) Applicants should be physically and mentally fit to complete the course within its duration
9) Successful candidates shall attend full-time preparatory Japanese language training in Manila for 2 months from April 2006

Application

-Applicants must complete Application Documents.
-Application Documents are distributed at
-JICE JDS Project Office, or
-can be downloaded at http://sv2.jice.org/jds/

Selection Procedures

-The First Selection
Submitted application forms will be examined by Japanese University Professors in Japan.

-SCS Interview
Successful candidates of the first selection process should undergo SCS Interview.

-The Second Selection
-Applicants will sit for English proficiency test in early January 2006.
-Applicants will be required to sit for basic mathematics test at this stage.

-The Third Selection
-Applicants will undergo the Technical Interview by Japanese University Professors in early February 2006.

-The Fourth Selection
-Applicants will undergo the Comprehensive Interview in late February 2006
-Applicants will be required to undergo a medical examination at a designated hospital before this stage.

Deadline for Application

No later than 16:30hrs on October 21, 2005
Late submission and incomplete application documents shall not be accepted.

Where to Submit

Application forms and required documents must be submitted either personally, by mail, or courier to JICE JDS Project Office.

For further information, please contact:

JICE JDS Project Office in the Philippines
(Mon to Fri, 09:00 to 12:00, 13:30 to 16:30)
*Unit 2-F1, Island Plaza Salcedo, L.P. Leviste Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City, Philippines
*TEL: 02-7533261
*Official Web Site: http://sv2.jice.org/jds/

Executing Agency

National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA- Special Committee on Scholarships)

ERRATUM

In the advertisement of **Glorimart Trading, Inc.**, Stay Order published in this paper, August 29, 2005 Presiding Judge name REYNALDO B. BAWAY should have been **REYNALDO B. DAWAY.**

Our apologies.

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NFA answers queries, complaints via Text NFA, CAUs

MORE than 3, 000 customers were served by the National Food Authority through its Customer Assistance Units (CAUs) and Text NFA program for the month of July. The agency's CAUs, located in each of the NFA offices nationwide, are manned by NFA personnel. Walk-in customers' inquiries or complaints on NFA programs are acted upon by personnel on duty in the CAUs. Meanwhile, with the Text NFA program, customers inform NFA of their complaints, suggestions or inquiries by sending SMS through mobile number 0917-6210927. Replies are sent within 24 hours by the NFA. Priority of concerns sent to the agency pertain to rice diversion, over pricing of NFA rice, requests for additional outlets, inquiries on renewal of NFA license, revalidation of retailer's passbook, among others. For information on NFA programs, the public may use the Text NFA program by sending inquiries, complaints and suggestions through mobile number 0917-6210927. For information on programs of the Department of Agriculture, please visit the DA's official website at www.da.gov.ph.

No price increase – NFA

GOVERNMENT rice remains at their present prices despite recent increase in oil prices. National Food Authority Administrator Gregorio Y. Tan, Jr. said that regular-milled and well-milled NFA rice are still being sold at P16 and P18 per kilogram, respectively in spite of the impending oil price increase and the increase in prices of other basic commodities. Tan said NFA rice is available through the agency's 2,493 outlets of Bigasan, Gloria sa Palengke (BGP), 269 units of Tindahan ni Gloria rolling stores and 26,112 rice outlets inside and outside public markets accredited by the NFA. The list of BGP outlets is being provided by the agency through its offices nationwide. The list is also available in city halls and public markets. Recently, the NFA published a list of BGP outlets in Metro Manila as well as the deployment schedule of rolling stores in major dailies. For information on NFA programs, the public may use the Text NFA program by sending inquiries, complaints and suggestions through mobile number 0917-621092

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So dearly loved ...
So fondly remembered ...
So truly missed ...

In Loving Memory
On His First Death Anniversary

ROLANDO "ROLLY" T. CRISOSTOMO

who passed unto Eternal Life on August 30, 2004

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered at the following churches:

Christ the King Church, *Greenmeadows*	6:00 A.M.
National Shrine of St. Anne, *Hagonoy, Bulacan*	6:00 A.M.
Sto. Rosario Parish Church, *Hagonoy, Bulacan*	6:00 A.M.
Barasoain Church, *Malolos, Bulacan*	6:00 A.M.
Concordia Parish Church, *Bolinao, Pangasinan*	6:00 A.M.
St. Joseph Parish Church, *Navotas, Manila*	6:00 A.M.
Sta. Mesa Parish Church, *Sta. Mesa, Manila*	7:00 A.M.

His wife **Susan**
children **Marco, Joseph** and **Patrick, Papa**, Brothers & Sisters
request the pious readers for prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

"As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you"
ISAIAH 66:13

Rosario "Baby" Navarro Pulido

"Baby", as her friends and loved ones called her, was an admirable homemaker who devoted much of her time glorifying the Lord.

She passed away last August 27, 2005 at the age of 64.

Her husband ***Atty. Romeo J. Pulido****, together with the rest of her family,* ***Drs. Ricky, Karen*** *and* ***Beejay, Attys. Roel*** *and* ***Simon, Engr. Ray, Jun, Ethan Alexander, Jojo, Lenlen, Monching, RJ, Alek, Sophia, Francesca, Patricia, Judith, Rhea, Kim, Jorel, Rio*** *and all her other relatives request for your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.*

Her remains lie in state at the Our Lady of Fatima Church, Philam Village, Las Pinas City. Necrological services will be held on September 4, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.

Interment will immediately follow at the Binakayan Municipal Cemetery, Kawit Cavite.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
1. Copy of Death Certificate
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

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Alfredo J. Mislang

Retiree of the United Laboratories, Inc.

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 26, 2005 at the age of 66. His body lies in state at the Pardo Mortuary, Pardo, Cebu. Interment will be on September 1 at the Pardo Cemetery.

IN LOVING MEMORY
Twenty First Death Anniversary of

CLEMENTE S. GATMAITAN, SR.
M.D. , M.P.H.

Who died in the Grace of our Lord August 30, 1984 at the age of 78 years old.

His bereaved children, Natividad and Deogracias, Clemente, Jr. and Concepcion, Escolastico and Erna; grandchildren, great grandchildren and other relatives request the pious readers to offer prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Holy Masses will be offered today, August 30, 2005 at:
6:00 A.M., St. Paul de Apostle Church, Mother Ignacia St., Q.C.
7:00 A.M., Sacred Heart Parish Church, Scout Ybardolaza Kamuning, Q.C.
6:00 P.M., Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City

FR. THOMAS R. FITZPATRICK, S.J.

was called home to the Lord on Saturday, 27 August 2005, in Bronx, New York, U.S.A.

Wake: Murray Weigel Hall, 515 East Fordham Rd., Bronx, NY on Tuesday afternoon and evening, 30 August

Funeral Mass: at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, 31 August in the Community chapel of Murray Weigel Hall; after Mass, the body will be brought for burial on 1 September in the Jesuit cemetery at Auriesville, NY.

A special memorial Mass for Fr. Fitzpatrick will be celebrated at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, 31 August in the Oratory of St. Ignatius, Loyola House of Studies, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

"Be at rest once more. O' my soul, for the Lord has been good to me." Psalm 116:7

JOVITA PANGILINAN-BELICENA

Retired Assistant City Fiscal, Manila

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 28th of August 2005 at the age of 79.

She will be missed by her loving husband **ANTONIO**; children **JO-AN**; **JONETTE** & **BRIAN, JOY** & **PUROY**; grandchildren **JASON** and **GRACE**; brother, sisters, relatives, friends and loved ones. They request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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Tels. (046) 471-3386, (046) 471-4417; (046) 571-1978

•CEBU
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City; Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu;
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601

•DAVAO
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City;
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•ILOCOS
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur; Tel. 722-2730;
Cell (0917) 5680136; (0917) 5680145

•LAGUNA
SAN RAMON FUNERAL HOMES
2020 Brgy. Dita, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Tels. (049) 837-5052; 531-4142; Fax (049) 531-4989
ZUASOLA FUNERAL HOMES
Brgy. Del Remedio, San Pablo City, Laguna
Tels. (049) 562-1660, 800-2914 Cel. No. (0917) 5016963

•PAMPANGA
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959; (045) 322-5247

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OUR LADY OF PEACE MEMORIAL PARK
CHAPEL & SERVICES, INC.
Nd 6 Curiginia St., Antipolo City 1870
Tel. No. 697-0702, 697-0020, 650-7429, Fax: 697-2764
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
Gulnang Bayan, San Mateo, Rizal; Tels. 640-5940; 942-4480
HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
Third Level, Unitoppe Complex, Quezon Ave., Angono, Rizal
Tels. 651-1711; 651-0737
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal; Tels. 645-1655

•ZAMBALES
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3045; (047) 611-1006; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
OLONGAPO MEMORIAL PARK
Del Pilar cor. Tabacchan, Sta. Rita, Olongapo; Tel. No. (047) 223-1692

Taytay Sa Kauswagan, Inc.

"Bridging the Gap Between Poverty and Progress"

opens its Bank for the poor

KAUSWAGAN BANK

A MICROFINANCE ORIENTED THRIFT BANK

A PARTNER OF OPPORTUNITY INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

TSKI: Then and Now

Established on October 1,1986, Taytay sa Kauswagan, Inc. (TSKI) was organized by a group of Iloilo businessmen led by Engr. Jose Tanjanlangit having been inspired by what a Manila based non-government organization was doing to fight poverty. It started with a capitalization of P2,500.00 and an initial manpower compliment of three people led by its Executive director, Mr. Angel L. de Leon, Jr. It initially implemented a Micro Enterprise Development Program (MEDP) as a poverty alleviation program that is designed to help the micro-entrepreneurs in Iloilo by providing small loans, trainings and basic business consultancy and in so doing expand their business and created jobs for the poor. A year after, TSKI was able to access funds from the Philippine Australia Community Assistance Program (PACAP) in the amount of P500,000.00 to expand its operations not only to micro-entrepreneurs but also to small farmers in selected towns of the province.

In 1992, encouraged by the speech made by Prof. Mohamed Yunus, the founder of the Grameen bank in Bangladesh, TSKI implemented the Grameen bank model of helping the poor in Iloilo, through group loans with weekly payments and meetings. A partnership was forged with the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) through a guarantee fund, for TSKI to initially implement the Grameen model in Iloilo. The initial success gave birth to a bigger partnership with the National Livelihood Support Fund (NLSF) and later on with the People's Credit Finance Corporation (PCFC) for investment and institutional funds that gave the necessary support for the organization to fully implement its group lending program in the whole province of Iloilo, Guimaras and eventually to wherever it found itself in helping the poor.

Thus in 1994, two years after the implementation of the Grameen model, TSKI started it's expansion plans by opening 4 branches in the province of Iloilo and one in Guimaras, and was able to reach over 10,000 clients in just 3 years of its operations. The years that followed until 1999 were "coping up years" to the sudden growth and strengthening the organization for a more intense expansion.

After a period of reorganization and institutional upgrading TSKI has set its goal in reaching 200,000 poor clients by the end of 2005. It decided to expand its operations beyond the province of Iloilo to the whole of Region 6, extending its operations in the provinces of Capiz, Antique and Aklan establishing 14 branches in the said areas. It further extended its operations to Region 7 by putting up 9 branches covering Cebu, Bohol and the island of Siquijor; Region 8 with 11 branches covering Leyte, Samar, Biliran and Southern Leyte; Region 4-B, with 5 branches covering Palawan, Romblon and Mindoro and finally to Western Mindanao with 5 branches, thus bringing its operations to a total of 44 branches covering 5 regions, 20 provinces and 366 municipalities. To date TSKI is serving 172,456 poor clients with a loan portfolio of P 547,943,177.08 making it the largest microfinance institution in the Philippines.

The active involvement in poverty alleviation of Taytay sa Kauswagan, Inc. has resulted to several recognitions. One of the citations received was the "Outstanding Achievement Award" from the People's Credit Finance Corporation for the first microfinance institution to reach 100,000 clients, a testimony of the organization's commitment to serve the poor. It also received in 2003 an award as a Flagship Partner and the Largest MFI in the Visayas Partner of the Government and Pioneering MFI in Hard-to-Reach Areas. It has been accredited as a Grameen Bank Replicator (GBAR) training institute by PCFC, and presently manages a training center for the said purpose in Boracay, Malay, Aklan.

Realizing the need of its clients for non-financial services, TSKI established its business development services to provide a more meaningful intervention in increasing productivity and business viability of its clients. It conducted several technical and skills training, organized trade fairs and will be venturing in areas of product development, market linkage, marketing and packaging in cooperation with FUNDACION CODESPA, a Spanish NGO in the Philippines.

Through the past 19 years Taytay Sa Kauswagan, Inc. has committed itself to the provision of services to the poor in their quest for self-sufficiency and bringing them into the main stream of society. It is to this end that in April of 2004, TSKI filed its application to set up a bank for the poor, a microfinance oriented bank, named KAUSWAGAN BANK. A year later on April 20, 2005, the Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) gave its approval to TSKI to organize a microfinance oriented bank with 5 branches to be located in Iloilo City, Roxas City, Capiz; Minglanilla, Cebu; Tagbilaran City, Bohol and Tacloban City, Leyte and today we open our doors to the public to better serve our clients and the micro-entrepreneurs, the engines of our economy.

KAUSWAGAN BANK, INC.

(A MICROFINANCE THRIFT BANK)

Kauswagan Bank, a Microfinance Oriented Thrift Bank duly authorized and organized under the supervision of the BSP is owned and managed by TSKI, a pioneer in Microfinance since 1986 and presently the largest microfinance in the Philippines.

Kauswagan Bank is an affiliate of the Opportunity International Network, base in Chicago, USA, and operates globally in the field of Microfinance to over 28 countries.

Kauswagan Bank is likewise a founding member of the Alliance of the Philippine Partners in Enterprise Development (APPEND), the largest Christian social development network involve in microfinance in the country.

ORGANIZATIONAL MISSION

To make the love of Jesus Christ be felt by the people, especially the poor, by providing opportunities that would bring them to the mainstream of society through economic, social and spiritual transformation in pursuit to total human development.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Regular Savings Account
Kauswagan Savings Account
CBU Savings Accounts
Proyekto sa Kauswagan sa Katilingban (PKK Group Loan)
Micro Enterprise Development Program (MEDP)
Community Livelihood Assistants Program (CLAP)
Real Estate Agricultural Commercial Housing Loan (REACH)

Soon to open
in
Roxas City, Capiz
Minglanilla, Cebu
Tagbilaran, Bohol
Tacloban City, Leyte

Congratulations
to
KAUSWAGAN BANK
from
INFOSERVE
INCORPORATED
The Banking Software Authority
And
NATIONLINK
Bringing Modern ATM and Electronic Banking Services to the Countryside
In Partnership with
MICROFINANCE NGOs, THRIFT/RURAL BANKS, COOPERATIVES
EMAIL: infoserve@nationlinkonline.com

Messages

MALACAÑANG PALACE
Manila

My warmest felicitations to the entire management and stakeholders of the Taytay Sa Kauswagan, Inc. (TSKI) as you hold the Blessing and Inauguration of your microfinance-oriented thrift, Kauswagan Bank.

Your bank has played an indispensable role in laying down the groundwork to make Philippine agriculture globally competitive.

It is through your liberal lending policy that the stakeholders in the agri-fishery sector have been given a fresh start and better perspective, not to mention their restored confidence in the potential's in the country's agriculture sector.

I therefore enjoin in the Kauswagan Bank to continue its role as a catalyst for growth and a better life for every Filipino.

Mabuhay!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

Taytay Sa Kauswagan, Inc.
'Bridging the Gap Between Poverty and Progress"

Nineteen years ago TSKI started giving microfinance assistance to the poor who could not access credit through the formal banking system. To the surprise of many people, our "non-bankable" clients proved to be highly credit worthy; and TSKI has become the largest microfinance institution in the country.

Having been with TSKI since its foundation in 1986, I have seen how God has increasingly made this NGO a channel of blessings to thousands of His children. He has continuously provided TSKI with support partners so that it could vigorously pursue its noble vision and mission.

For several years we dreamed of having our own microfinance-oriented bank to help our mature clients join the economic mainstream of society. Thank God the dream is now a reality. I wish to extend our deep appreciation to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for granting us a license to establish Kauswagan Bank and simultaneously open five branches in Iloilo, Capiz, Bohol, Cebu and Leyte. I also wish to thank the Opportunity International (OI) Network for its abiding support and cooperation in pursuit of our common objectives.

The whole TSKI family rejoices and praises God as we inaugurate the Kauswagan Bank. We thankfully dedicate it for the good of His people. To God be the glory.

DEMY P. SONZA
Chairman, Board of Directors
Kauswagan Bank

Republic of the Philippines
office of the Governor
Province of Iloilo

My warmest congratulations to the management and staff, incorporators, members, and clients of the Taytay Sa Kauswagan, Inc. on the inauguration of the Kauswagan Bank- Iloilo Branch on August 30, 2005.

The problem of poverty continues to take its toll on the majority of Filipinos depriving them of opportunities to provide for their basic needs. This unrelenting socio-economic dilemma continues to crash the spirits of many of our people. The mere perception of this evil tends to promote fatalistic attitudes among Filipinos, which hinder them from rising above their seemingly unchanging circumstances.

Taytay Sa Kauswagan, Inc., however, has chosen to stand on the another side of fate. Since its establishment in 1986 as a Christian development organization in Iloilo, it has uplifted the quality of life of low-income households and individuals engaged in micro-enterprise financing. Until now, it continues to promote entrepreneurial spirit among our people and assists the small entrepreneurs engaged in business with credit and technical support.

Through its Business Development Program, TSKI provides people with various modes of assistance such as Infrastructure Support, Finance or Credit Assistance, Training/Technical Assistance Advocacy, and many more. Indeed, TSKI has helped many Ilonggos to succeed in life amidst economic difficulties.

The establishment of the 1st TSKI micro-finance oriented thrift bank in Iloilo will surely help narrow the gap between poverty and progress through the different services the KAUSWAGAN BANK could offer.

Let us continue to believe in the strong entrepreneurial spirit of Filipinos, which would enable us to beat penury.

Mabuhay!

NIEL D. TUPAS, Sr.
Governor

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
CITY OF ILOILO
OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR

It is with warmth and pleasure that I greet the officers and staff of the Kauswagan Bank on the occasion of the blessing and inauguration of your Iloilo Branch!

Over the years, microfinance oriented and thrift banks have played significant roles in the continuing growth and development of our beloved metropolis. As reliable partners of our small and medium-sized industries and entrepreneurs, these banks provide the much-needed seed and maintenance capital to keep these worthy endeavors going.

Your choice of Iloilo City as one of the areas that will cater to your clients once again bolsters our claim that we are indeed on the path to greater development and farther economic stability. But what is important for us Ilonggos is the fact that your bank is committed to deliver quality service to your various clients and also give numerous opportunities to all Ilonggos who may avail of your services.

I pray that Divine Providence bless your institution with continued success, and that you may be able to serve Ilonggos for a considerable period of time.

Godspeed and best wishes!

JERRY P. TRENAN
City Mayor

Kauswagan Bank Board of Directors and Officers

Seated from L-R: **Mr. Jesus Q. Belleza**, Director; **Mrs. Judy C. Abellar** , VP Branch Banking; **Mr. Ramon B. Buenaflor**, President & CEO; **Mr. Demy P. Sonza**, Chairman; **Mr. Ricardo A. Gurrea, Jr.**, Treasurer. *Standing from L-R:* **Mr. Angelo B. Solarte**, VP-Account Management Group; **Mr. Angel L. De Leon, Jr**, TSKI Executive Director; **Atty. Pablo R. Nava III**, Director; **Mr. Franklin L. Lopez**, Director

People, Events & Products

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aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Philips wins environmental excellence awards

PHILIPS Consumer Electronics recently received recognition for its commitment to sustainability and superior environmental product design when three of its products were awarded during the Hong Kong Eco-Products Awards 2005.

The Philips Xenium 99C mobile phone and Philips GoGear Digital Camcorder/MP3 Player Key019 shared the Gold Award, while the DVP520 DVD player took the Bronze Award. These products were lauded for their substantial contributions to energy savings and abilities to reduce environmental impact, as well as for their innovative design and user-friendly features.

The Hong Kong Eco-Product Awards, launched in 1999, is run by the Business Environmental Council, the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong, Federation of Hong Kong Industries, and Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce. The Award is the only one of its kind in Hong Kong to recognize product-specific attributes concerning sustainability and the environment.

Attributes assessed encompass a product's life cycle, including design, manufacturing, packaging, use, and end of life. All three products beat competitors when they were measured for energy reduction, effective utilization of materials, recyclability, reusability, waste reduction, and avoidance of toxic substances.

"As a leading technology company, we work continuously to contribute to a better environment through our products and technologies such as those recognized by these awards," said Angelo Valenton, general manager of Philips Consumer Electronics. "All three award-winning products are perfect examples of our brand promise of 'Sense and Sensibility' and our commitment to delivering products and solutions that can improve our customers' quality of life."

Valenton further explained that each of these products has also achieved the Green Flagship status of the Philips environmental action program, EcoVision, for their superior environmental performance when compared to predecessors or equivalent competitor products. When developing products, the company also follows procedures that focus on five Green Focal Areas: weight, hazardous substances, energy consumption, recycling and disposal, and packaging.

"Through our EcoVision program, Philips implements sustainability into our processes and procedures at all phases of product design and development, including product life cycle. More than 100 Philips products now carry the Green Flagship status," Valenton claimed.

Philips' commitment to sustainability demonstrates its dedication to responsible entrepreneurship, which dates back to its founding in 1891 and was considered a practice that's ahead of its time.

In 2004, for the second consecutive year, Philips was ranked number one in the consumer electronics sector on the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI), the first global index tracking the financial performance of the leading sustainability-driven companies worldwide.

"With consumer interest in 'green' products on the rise, Philips will continue to use innovation as an opportunity to minimize the environmental impacts of our consumer electronic products through our EcoDesign efforts," said Valenton.

G-CASH, ABS-CBN INT'L: IN THE SERVICE OF THE GLOBAL PINOY

ABS-CBN International, the driving force behind The Filipino Channel, and G-Cash, the world's first cardless m-commerce platform have joined forces to strengthen the ties of the global Pinoy community. Through ABS-CBN subsidiary's Tawag Remit service, Filipinos abroad will be able to send remittance to their loved ones here in the Philippines straight to their Globe Telecom or Touch Mobile phones using Globe G-Cash. Their loved ones will be able to convert the G-Cash they received into cash through any of the accredited G-Cash outlets nationwide or use this mobile currency to purchase goods in accredited merchant establishments, pay for bills and services or even buy prepaid load. As the Globe subsidiary tasked to oversee the development of G-Cash, G-Xchange Inc has continued to expand Philippine m-commerce by teaming up with partner companies, institutions and establishments such as ABS-CBN International, who are equally committed to uplifting the Filipino way of life by providing services that benefit Filipinos all over the world. Formalizing the partnership were (from left): Joey Mendoza, G-Xchange Inc president; Globe Telecom chief information officer Rodell Garcia; ABS-CBN Telecom managing director Zenon Carlos; and Enrique Olives, director for business development, ABS-CBN International. Also present were (standing, from left): Globe Telecom's OFW and money remittance segment head Paolo Baltao, and M-Commerce head Patricia Tan, with ABS-CBN Interactive's mobile business head Paolo Pineda and Eugene Paden, director for technical services.

Stay connected with Automatic Centre and Sogo Home and Office Center

GIVEN the numerous choices of stylish and trendy gadgets in the market today, key players in appliance technologies introduce various innovative products to suit the fast-paced lifestyle of Filipino consumers.

Joining the fusion are Automatic Centre and Sogo Home and Office Center, the pioneering appliance-electronic stores in the industry today. As a great reward to customers this month - specifically tech-savvies and tech-driven, - AC and Sogo came up with a very attractive offer with their "Make the Connection!" promo. It entitles customers to avail of the latest, sleek, most-wanted cell phones and other communication units fabulously offered at zero percent interest through major credit cards. Plus, they will also take home amazing freebies such as prepaid cards or mySIM duplicators for such purchases made. It's truly a magnificent offer where you don't splurge much from your budget.

As always committed, AC and Sogo try to establish the major breakthrough of the best, quality yet affordable appliances in the market. With the stores' wide range of product lines from avant-garde audio-video, appliances to techie gadgets, electronics and premier household appliances, customers are guaranteed to buy the worth-valued items at budget-friendly prices.

Likewise, customers can always look forward to more rewarding buys as AC and Sogo frequently launch various promotions for the stores' different product lines. You'll never go home empty-handed as perks and treats constantly pouring your way every time you shop.

Don't be left behind. Run to your nearest Automatic Centre and Sogo Home and Office Center stores now. You'll find everything you need all in one place. For more details, call 758-2552 to 53.

PEDIGREE PET IDOL SEARCH 2005

Aug. 14, marked the start of the auditions for the Pedigree Pet Idol Search 2005 held at the Atrium of SM Megamall. A reality talent search for dogs, a novelty of its kind, this event featured various extraordinary tricks and talents of the 'would be Pet Idols'. Brutus, Kisha, Padfoot, Robin and Pugslee emerged as the first batch of finalists for the Pedigree Pet Idol Search 2005. Brutus, a Pomeranian performed gamely by walking on two feet. Kisha, a black Chow Chow appeared dignified as she showed some basic obedience tricks on stage. Padfoot, a black Labrador showed his ability in mathematics. Not to be out staged is Robin, a Golden Retriever, who responds well in Filipino and English instructions from his handler. And last but not least, Pugslee, a 3 year old Pug, performed with ease and style as he skateboarded and whisked his way through an improvised agility course. Kisha and Brutus will advance to the finals of the Novice Dogs Category while Padfoot, Robin and Pugslee will advice to the finals of the Advance Dogs Category. The 2005 Pet Idol shall take home a mountain bike, P10,000 worth of Pedigree products and a gift pack from Shield. The Pedigree Pet Idol Search 2005 is co-presented by Pedigree and is co-sponsored by SM Bicutan, SM Marilao, SM Fairview, Shield-guard, Animal House, Pet Page of the Manila Times, Animal Scene of Manila Bulletin, 103.5 K-lite, 92.3 Joey and LG Collins, the event technology partner. Schedule of auditions: Aug. 28 - SM Bicutan Entertainment Plaza, Bldg. A; Sept. 10 - SM Marilao Entertainment Plaza; Sept. 25 - SM Fairview Activity Center Annex 2. Photo shows the Pedigree Pet Idol 2005 first leg of audition at SM Megamall.

SMART, BANCNET CONTRACT SIGNING

As Smart continues to provide value-added service to its customers, it searches for new and better ways to serve them. In line with this goal, Smart recently tied-up with one of the leading ATM networks in the country. Subscribers using the Smart Mobile Banking Service will soon have access to a number of BancNet affiliated banks, this will enable them to do mobile banking via their cellular phones. A ceremonial contract signing between Smart Communications and BancNet officials was held last Aug. 24. Shown are (seated from left): Boy Martinez, Smart PCMSD head; Polly Nazareno, Smart/PLDT president; Angelito Villanueva, BancNet chair; and Francisco Caparros Jr., BancNet president; (standing from left): Rec Babasa, senior manager of E-Services, Smart; Reynante Banico, vice chair of operations committee, BancNet; Reynaldo Marukot, director of sales and marketing, BancNet; Dan Ibarra, group head of E-Services, Smart; Dennis Gatuslao, senior manager of E-Services, Smart; and Samuel Tan, business development manager, BancNet.

MERALCO FETES ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDEES

Six students from the 2nd year of the Meralco Foundation Institute for school year 2004-2005, were awarded medals for academic excellence during the 23rd Scholars Recognition Day. Held at the atrium of the institute building, the awardees are part of the 391 scholars admitted at the institute for school year 2005-2006. Shown (standing from left): Michael Angelo Ramirez, Michael Jayson Abayon, Alwin A. Lopez, Mark Lester Ponghon, Ma. Christina Obnamia and Joana Marie Santos. With them are MFI officials (seated from left): dean Alberto Muyot, trustee; Col. Alex T. Escaño, president; and Manolo S. Santos, head, Meralco Institute. Joining them are Scholars of the Month awardees Joey Orating and Alpha Golden Mier (standing 3rd and 4th from left).

AHS Class '71 Alumni Homecoming

CALLING the attention of all graduates of Araullo High School Batch 1971, there will be an Alumni Homecoming on Feb. 16, 2006 at Araullo High School at Taft Avenue cor. UN Avenue, Manila. For particulars, please call Lilibeth Neyra-Tiu at 890-2564; Lynette Bernardo-Monillas at 400-7261; Susan N. Pasia at 927-4245 loc. 4101; Mira Guiking-Mendoza at 839-7295/0916-386-2139; Ariel Salonga at 850-4055/0918-929-1752; Ed R. Savares at 589-53-22 /0919-816-8703.

NESTOR MANGIO GRADUATES FROM HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Shown are architect Nestor S. Mangio (left), president and CEO of Central Country Estate Inc (owner and developer of The Lakeshore Estate in Mexico, Pampanga), and professor Rick Perser of Harvard University. Mangio completed the Advance Management and Development Program in Real Estate at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design in Cambridge Massachusetts, USA and graduated last July 29. His team won many of the class competitions with his investment strategies and development plans. He was voted model student and presented with a book entitled 'American Homes,' signed by his contemporaries and professors Mangio bagged the Philippine

Regulatory Board's Most Outstanding Architect award for the year 2005 and was also awarded Top Ten Architectural Firm of BCI Asia.

ICD's 1st Quarterly Business Meeting/Seminar

THE INTERNATIONAL College of Dentists (ICD) Philippine Section will hold its First Quarterly Business Meeting and Seminar at 5 p.m., today at the Le Salon Grand Hyatt Hotel and Casino on M.H. del Pilar and Pedro Gil Streets, Malate, Manila. According to Fellow Hermogenes P. Villareal, president of ICD (2005-2006), the meeting will have as guest speaker, Peter Wallace, regarded as the top 10 among the 20 Most Prominent Australians in Asia whose Wallace Business Forums has provided advisory services to more than 140 multinational corporations and aid agencies, as well as successive Philippine governments on foreign investment. Fellows from all over the country who will be attending the meeting will be enlightened by Wallace about the current economic and political situation and how the college could cope with the present challenges. For more information, call Dr. Elizabeth C. Carrasco, college secretary at 631-9422/633-7466.

Drive Your Dream Auto Loan Luggage2Go promo

AT BPI Family Savings Bank, you're guaranteed to go places. Because you don't just get your dream car fast and easy, you even get to bring home classy and handy luggage pieces with the Drive Your Dream Auto Loan Luggage2Go promo. All eligible clients who will avail of the Drive Your Dream Auto Loan from July 8 to Sept. 30 with a minimum amount financed of P400,000 will get a limited edition luggage set. Repeat clients will automatically receive a three-piece luggage set consisting of a duffle bag, a shoulder bag and an accessories pouch. While first-time clients automatically get a two-piece luggage set consisting of a trolley bag and carry-on bag. Visit any BPI or BPI Family Savings Bank branch or any participating auto dealer for more information. You can also call the Drive Your Dream Auto Loan Direct Marketing Hotline at 845-6777 or 89-100.

Intramuros features Visayas

TOURISM spotlight will focus on Central Visayas this September as the whole region brings its trade and tourism industry in the Clamshell in Intramuros, Manila. The Garbo sa Central Visayas running from Sept. 1 to 14 is the regional showcasing of Cebu, Bohol, Oriental Negros and Siquijor under the theme Beach Holiday and Eco-tourism. The grand opening on Sept. 2 will feature the Sayaw sa Dalan, a dance parade of the festivals of Central Visayas, Pasundayag at the Plaza San Ignacio, the Festival Showdown, Merienda Cena (featuring Central Visayan delicacies) at San Ignacio Ruins, and an evening performance. The Garbo sa Sugbo will be on Sept. 3 and 4. Other activities are the Garbo sa Bohol (Sept. 6 and 7), Garbo sa Siquijor (Sept. 8 to 10), Garbo sa Oriental Negros (Sept. 11), Garbo sa Dumaguete City and Bayawan City (Sept. 12) and Garbo sa Tanjay City (Sept. 13).

Seminar workshop on PEP-Kids/PEP-Teens

PARENTS, counselors and other caregivers are invited to the PEP-Kids/PEP-Teens (Positive Empowered Parenting for Kids/Teens) seminar-workshop because it will enable them to acquire the awareness and skills necessary to communicate, understand and foster healthy relationship with their children. Scheduled dates are: PEP-Kids on Sept. 3 and 10; PEP-Teens on Oct. 1 and 8. Venue will be at Cefam (Center for Family Ministries) Ateneo de Manila Campus, Loyola Heights, Q.C. at 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Interested parties may call Cefam at 426-4289 to 92

BITS Clips

PFHDP launches Health Fair

IT WILL be a gathering of well-known and highly recognized dentists, chiropractic and optical practitioners and other health related establishments in the country. Come to the very first Health Fair that will be launched by the Philippine Family Health and Dental Plan Corp at the activity center of SM North Edsa on Sept. 4. Learn more about the practice of chiropractic care here in the Philippines from one of the six licensed and best chiropractic doctors in the country today. Get free optical consultations and optical products at discounted prices. Be treated to various wellness indulgences such as hand, foot and back massage and of course a lot of "try me" wellness products such as natural herb products, aromatherapy scents, candles and lotions and a lot more. Meet and greet your favorite celebrity stars as you listen to Celebrity Talks. A highlight of the affair will be the charity affair wherein 10 children from 3 orphanages will be given free dental treatments and each kid will be given a goody bag consisting of free goodies from PFHDP and the sponsors. For more inquiries, call 892-0267/892-5765 or email at fmd@pldtdsl.net or pfhdpcorp@gmail.com.

BUSINESS

Oil firms start selling cheap ethanol gas

By Abigail L. Ho

FOUR oil firms yesterday came to the rescue of hard-hit motorists, offering gasoline blended with 10-percent ethanol that cost between 65 centavos and 71 centavos lower than pure gasoline.

The offer of Seaoil Petroleum Corp., Eastern Petroleum Corp., Flying V and USA88 came at a time crude oil futures hit a high of $70.80 per barrel in Asian trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Seaoil's premium unleaded gasoline, which has a research octane number (RON) of 95, is now being sold 65 centavos lower per liter. Its higher end unleaded gasoline with a RON of 97 is now being sold 71 centavos lower per liter.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said the Philippines would be "the next Middle East of ethanol." He pointed out that the government has been exerting effort to reduce the country's dependence on imported oil.

Seaoil president Glenn Yu said that by the end of the week, all of the oil firm's Metro Manila stations would be selling ethanol-blended gasoline. Its Visayas stations would follow suit by mid-September, while its Mindanao stations would start by the third week of September.

Eastern chair Fernando Martinez said 35 of its stations nationwide would carry ethanol-blended gasoline by next month.

Based on the initial ethanol demand from the oil firms, Dean Nelson, Asia regional manager of ethanol supplier ED&F Alcohols, said the United Kingdom-based firm shipped 2.5 million liters of ethanol into the country.

Right now, he said the local oil industry's ethanol demand was still quite low since only a few oil firms—all of them new players—were offering the product.

Should oil majors Petron Corp. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and the rest of the oil firms decide to blend 10 percent of ethanol with their gasoline products, he said ethanol demand should jump to 400 million a year.

At an average price of P30 a liter, Lotilla said the country could save as much as P12 billion a year if all 3.4 million gasoline-fed vehicles in the country would use ethanol blended fuel.

MINING INVESTORS Energy undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya (right) talks with officials of Synergy International Resources Group of China during a courtesy call last week. The Shenzhen-based oil exploration giant has expressed interest in both upstream and downstream development of natural gas in the country.

Trade sentiment of Japan firms in RP fell in Aug.

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A MONTHLY survey of Japanese firms operating in the region showed that business sentiment on the Philippines slid in August compared with July, although the companies were bullish about the future.

The Japan External Trade Organization (Jetro) reported that Japanese companies and affiliates doing business here thought worse of the country, giving it a diffusion index rating of negative 8 percent this month compared to negative 6 percent in July.

The agency said rising prices of crude oil and raw materials dampened business mood, dousing signs of bullishness in July that followed a generally downbeat first half of the year.

The survey, which Jetro conducts monthly, covers Japanese companies and affiliates operating in 12 countries or regions of East Asia-referring to Southeast Asia, China, South Korea and Taiwan.

The poll showed that Japanese firms see better times in the next quarter, giving the Philippines a DI rating of positive one percent.

However, this was much lower than the quarter-ahead outlook of 7 percent in July.

Respondents in the August survey involved 188 Philippine-based firms.

Australia tribunal settles suit involving Aboitiz unit

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures Inc. (AEV), the flagship firm of the Aboitiz family, yesterday revealed that an arbitration tribunal in Australia has awarded $11.8 million to its 50-percent owned subsidiary Luzon Hydro Corp. (LHC), settling over four years of legal brawl with LHC's turnkey contractor Transfield Philippines Inc.

But the same court also ordered LHC to pay TPI $5.9 million representing the final contractual installment payment. The tribunal also directed LHC to return to TPI $17.9 million put up as security on the Bakun project, and reimburse the contractor for part of the arbitration and legal costs incurred, amounting to $12.5 million.

LHC is a party to a dispute with TPI over alleged delays in the construction of LHC's power station in Bakun, Benguet province.

TPI earlier agreed to design and construct, before handing over to LHC, the 70-megawatt hydroelectric power project in Bakun.

With the ruling by Australia's International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) international court, LHC will be reimbursed for repairs it made in Bakun's lined tunnel system. They will also recover part of its lost revenues, according to AEV.

The Aboitiz firm believes that the resulting payments will not have an adverse effect on AEV's financial statements. Between 2000 and 2001, AEV had set aside P433 million in its books for any costs or amounts which could arise in connection with the arbitration proceedings.

LHC is AEV's joint venture with Pacific Hydro Ltd. of Australia to operate and manage the 70-MW Bakun AC hydroelectric power project.

AEV's subsidiary Benguet Hydropower Corp. represents its 50-percent interest in the project.

The Bakun AC project is a run-of-river power plant that taps the flow of Bakun river to provide the plant with power.

The $150-million project was undertaken under the government's build-operate-transfer program.

The Bakun AC plant went on-stream in October 2000 and is rated to generate 217 gigawatt hours of power a year (GWh).

Energy produced by the plant is taken by the National Power Corp. and dispersed to its Luzon Power Grid for distribution to customers throughout Luzon.

In 2003, LHC signed a memorandum of agreement with the government for a supplemental water contract, allowing LHC to tap two other rivers, the Boyokan and Kayapa rivers in the area for its power generation source.

Once this is commissioned, the project is expected to increase Bakun AC's annual generation by 50 GWh.

NRMDC set to bid out Surigao mine contract

By Christine A. Gaylican

STATE-OWNED Natural Resources Mining Development Corp. will bid out a joint-venture contract to explore and develop the Dinagat Island chromite reserves in Northern Surigao.

Local and foreign mining companies are urged to participate in the pre-bidding conference on Aug. 30 for the NRMDC Dinagat chromite reservation, covering 9,775 hectares, said Artemio Disini NRMDC president.

Disini said in an interview that prospective bidders could undertake either of the two project areas: Parcel 1 is the 600-hectare area in Barangay Esperanza, Lorenzo, and Parcel 2 covers 9,175 hectares on the southern tip of the island.

"The reservation is a good source of metallurgical chromite that could be used in fabricating and chrome plating of steel products," Disini told the INQUIRER.

He said that, at the moment, 1,000 miners are now undertaking small-scale operations on the project site.

After the pre-bidding conference this week, the terms of reference will be issued on Sept. 19. The pre-bidding conference is on Sept. 26, while the final submission of the proposal from investors is on Nov. 14.

The bid proposals will be evaluated by the bids and awards committee technical board. The technical board's recommendation will be subjected to the final approval of the NRMDC Board of Directors chaired by the DENR.

Based on studies conducted by the United Nations Development Program during the 1980s and the 1990s, there are significant chromite and copper deposits in this government reserve that are waiting to be tapped.

"We believe it is time that we develop the potential of the Dinagat Island mine reserve, to take advantage of the big demand for chromite and copper in China," Disini said.

He added that the corporate arm of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is advised by its financial adviser, the Development Bank of the Philippines, to go into strategic joint venture arrangements with interested partners for this project that may require about P1 billion.

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 2BU • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

No-drug approach to health

MORE non-medicinal, no-drug approaches to a healthier you are being introduced. Here are some of them:

Reducing blood pressure

• Take 1,000 mg of Vitamin C daily. According to a United States Department of Agriculture research, supplementation of Vitamin C for six weeks "shaved an average 8-10 points off systolic readings and an average of 7 points off diastolic readings in those with borderline high blood pressure. It even decreased normal blood pressure."

• Limit salt/sodium intake to no more than 2,400 mg daily. Minimize consumption of processed foods loaded with hidden sodium. Check food labels well.

• Lose weight if you are overweight. Ten pounds is enough to make an impact. Studies show excessive weight is the most common cause of high blood pressure.

• Avoid alcohol or at least limit yourself to two drinks daily if you are a man, one drink daily if you are a woman.

• Exercise regularly—at least half an hour a day.

• Eat more fruits and vegetables. According to Harvard nutritionists, these foods have fiber and chemicals that lower blood pressure. Potassium, a mineral found in fish, milk, fruits and veggies, just might save you from a stroke. A banana, apple, orange/orange juice, tomato/tomato juice, almonds, carrots or spinach daily could spell the difference between life and death.

In a study of diets of 859 men and women over 50, Dr. Kay Lee Khaw, together with colleagues at the University of California, showed that the intake of potassium reduced the risk of stroke. The more potassium you take the greater the protection you have.

Body, brain power

• Take multi-vitamins daily. Studies have shown that the intake of modest amounts of vitamins/minerals can ensure and improve biological intellectual functions.

• Take anti-oxidants—Vitamin E, Vitamin C, alpha-lipoic acid coenzyme Q10 plus pycnogenol, gingko biloba—for extra brain power.

• Eat foods rich in anti-oxidants—fruits and veggies, especially berries like blueberries, strawberries, etc. (Philippine herbalists believe in the power of local berries like *bignay*).

• Drink tea regularly. Dr. John Weisburger, scientific researcher, American Health Foundation, says tea is one of the best health drinks. One tea bag in a cup of boiling water gives an anti-oxidant boost equivalent to 1/3-1/4 of the total daily recommended amount according to Tufts University researchers. Black tea, green tea, hot or cold, makes for a healthy beverage.

• Avoid bad fats. Stay away from trans fatty acids in processed foods such as margarines, fastfood french fries, fried foods in fastfood restaurants. Avoid/minimize omega-6 vegetable oils overload like corn, safflower, sunflower. Avoid hydrogenated vegetable oils. Check the food labels. Minimize animal fats - meat, whole milk, butter cheese.

• Consume omega-3 type fish oil by eating fish or taking supplements at least three times a week. It's a great mood lifter.

• Watch your blood sugar. Minimize sugar intake.

• Consume more legumes—beans, lentils, mongo

(Reference: "Your Miracle Brain" by Jean Carper)

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

To keep your body in the best condition, you must start from within. Pamper yourself regularly body and soul

Body-mind cleansing

To keep your body in the best condition, you must start from within. Pamper yourself regularly body and soul.

• Take a cold shower each morning.

• Dry skin brushing with a loofah or brush is good for circulation and detoxification. Sit or stand in front of a mirror. Brush upwards from the feet towards the direction of the heart. Three to four minutes will do. Note: Use circular motions for the tummy area. Use only a flannel cloth for face.

• Give yourself a rub-down or massage. Knead or rub your body from feet to neck firmly but gently for three minutes.

• Take a ten-minute break daily wherever you may be.

• Laugh or smile everyday.

• Say five affirmations or do five visualizations daily. This is a power regimen. Suggested affirmations: "I am in control of my life; I am at peace; I attract only loving people in my life; I am successful; my body is getting healthier each day."

Visualizations: "Imagine you are in your dream car; relaxing by the sea under a coconut tree; your bank book balance is P5 million; you are with your soul mate; traveling to exotic getaways; your body is trim and your face youthful..."

Snack right

If you get an attack of the munchies, try almonds, soy chips, soy crackers. For a healthy filling meal, try this tuna rice dish:

1 small c of tuna
1 tsp olive oil
½ stalk celery
2 tbsp of rice
1 tbsp red beans
½ cooked beet root/sugar beets or sautéed celery

Saute tuna and celery in olive oil, add cooked rice. Mix in cooked red beans, top with beet root (optional). Enjoy!

(Reference: "Detox Yourself" by Jane Scrivner)

Good medicine

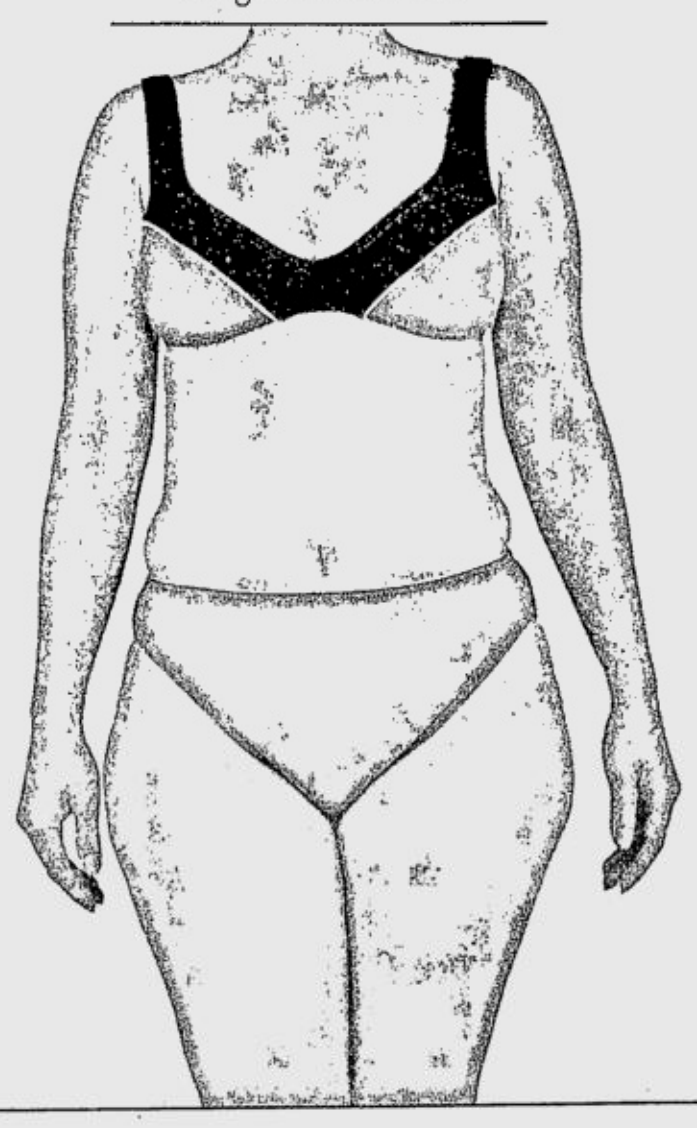
Given its newfound health benefits, it doesn't hurt to try two tablespoons of virgin coconut oil as a health food supplement.

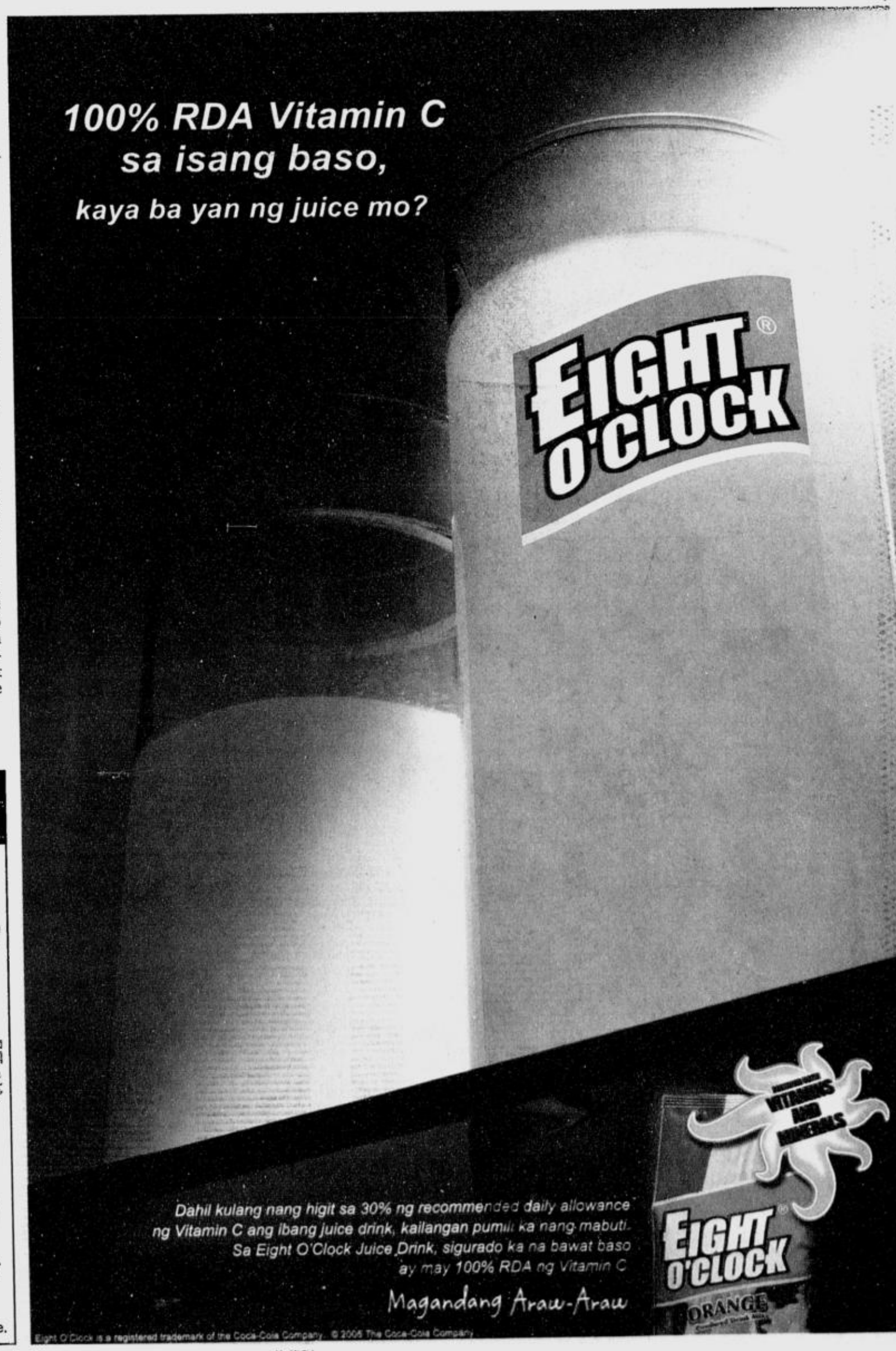
Life is good. And the universe rewards a generous heart. So don't scrimp on goodness today because with every act of generosity, you are upholding life.

Love and light!

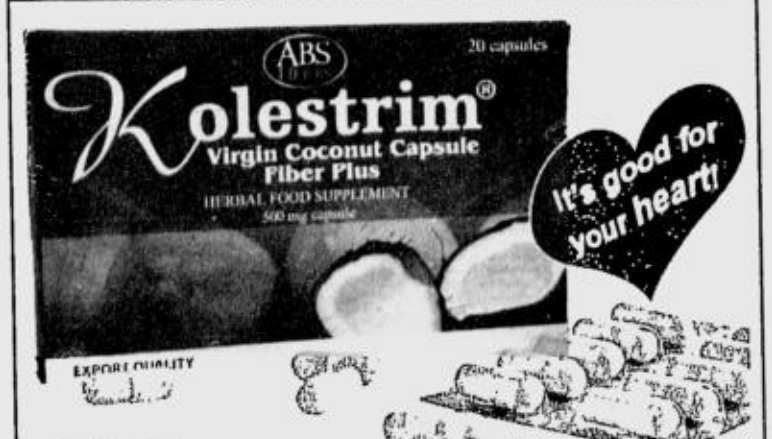
Body Problem?

Are you pear-shaped: bottom-heavy with small shoulders, wide hips and huge thighs?
Wish you were slimmer and evenly proportioned?
Quick! Turn the page for a fast weight-loss solution...





TRIM YOUR CHOLESTEROL



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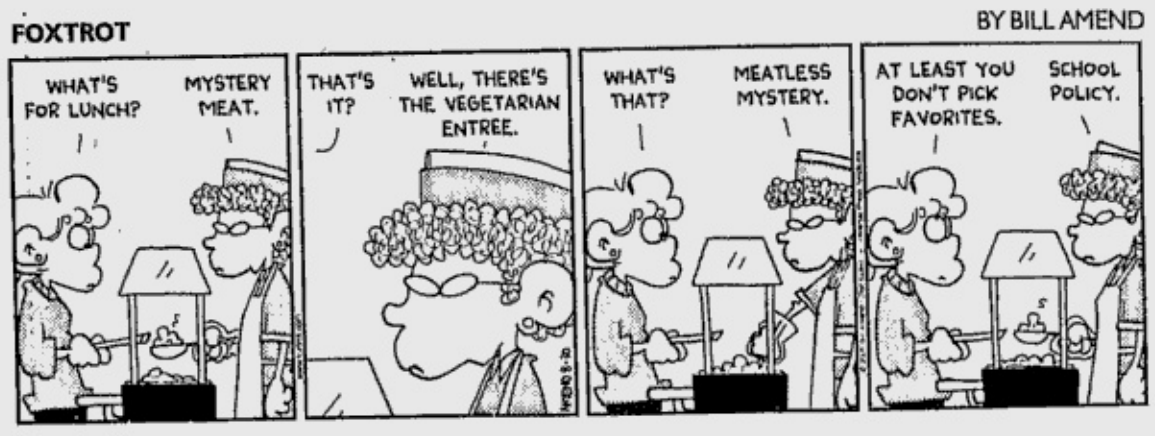


A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You like order in your universe. You will work tirelessly to restore order to anything chaotic around you. What you're seeking is harmony in your surroundings. You have a very creative imagination. Family is important to you. The year ahead could be one of the best years of your life. Expect a miracle.
Birthdate of: Charlie "Bird" Parker, saxophonist; Richard Attenborough, director; Rebecca De Mornay, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a wonderful day to talk to others. You feel friendly, sympathetic and responsive to their needs. Because of this, people will be grateful to you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You might want to help a co-worker today. Alternatively, you might be involved in making where you work more practical. In fact, you might do both!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Love at first sight is possible today. (Be still, my beating heart.) You will enjoy the arts, movies and anything that is creative. Time spent with children will be enjoyable.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Make an effort to beautify where you live. Do something to make things look more attractive. This is also an excellent day for family discussions. People are warm and sympathetic to each other.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Any kind of communication can make money for you today. This is an excellent day for negotiations, buying and selling, wheeling and dealing, plus writing, teaching and talking.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a fabulous day for business and commerce. Whatever you do can probably turn a profit. It's also a lovely day to buy art or beautiful things for yourself or loved ones.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a lovely day to start the week off. You feel warm and sympathetic to others. You also feel attracted to someone. Your creative skills are strong today!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): It's easy to feel selfless today. You want to put the needs of others before your own. That's because you're genuinely concerned about the welfare of someone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might want to help a friend today, or a friend might help you. Your efforts with any kind of charitable organization will be rewarded.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You might feel attracted to your boss today or someone in a position of authority. You might also be asked to do artistic work or design layout to make your workspace more attractive.

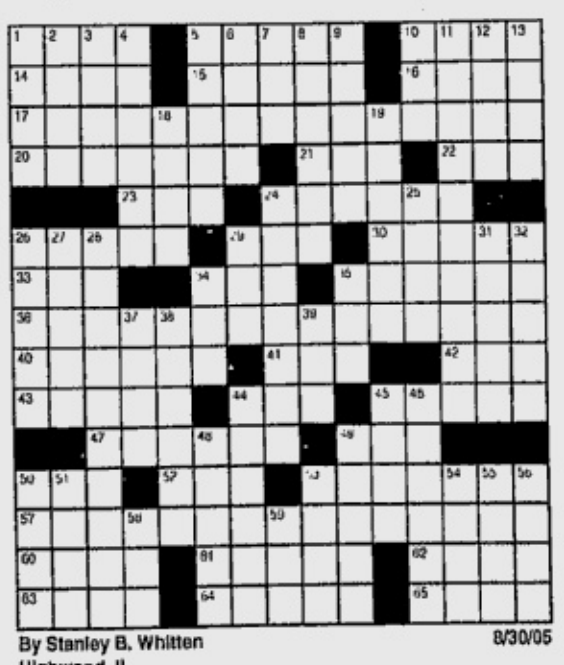
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your appreciation of beauty is definitely heightened today! Give yourself an opportunity to enjoy art in museums, galleries, bookstores or boutiques. Visit a park.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your closest relationships are extremely loving and intimate now. You can easily fall in love with someone. People are very good to you today.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Buddhist monk
5 Greek letter
10 Samovars
14 Resting on
15 Ryan of no-hitters
16 Actor Connery
17 Simon and Garfunkel music?
20 Smiled derisively
21 You, to Yves
22 Corrida call
23 $ from a bank
24 Type of rooster
26 Vanzetti's co-defendant
29 Smoked salmon
30 Warble
33 One to Juan
34 Soda
35 North Ossetia
36 Music, please!
40 Rupture
41 Period of note
42 Golf gadget
43 Figurative phrase
44 Young fish
45 Iditarod rides
47 Intuitive apprehension of spiritual truth
49 Simian
50 5th or Lex.
52 PMs
53 Makeshift conveyance
57 Cell phone ad question
60 Conceal
61 Table constellation
62 Kett of old comics
63 Verve
64 News media
65 Detergent

DOWN
1 Young female
2 God of the sun
3 Pouting face
4 Of a breathing disorder
5 Beginning
6 Frame of mind
7 Santa's helper
8 State levy on fuel
9 Negative particle
10 Employ
11 Put up for office again
12 Salt, chemically
13 Dundee dagger
18 S. Connery movie
19 Small
24 Teeny followers?
25 U.A.E. word
26 Osaka morsel
27 Fed the kitty
28 List of errors
29 Gehrig or Costello
31 Like notebook paper
32 Fills with cargo
34 TV-dinner morsel
35 Eureka!
37 Zoom or zero follower
38 Japanese robe
39 Attempt
44 Carrie of "Star Wars"
45 Unwanted e-mail
46 Embankments
48 Baffle
49 Gertrude's tapestry
50 Belly or heart follower
51 Colorado resort
53 Pravda source
54 Conscious of
55 Speck
56 Trade
58 Desire
59 Wind dir.



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL.

8/30/05

Monday's Puzzle Solved

R	O	M	A		S	P	I	E	S		S	F	P	D
A	M	O	R		P	U	N	K	Y		W	O	R	E
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F	A	C	A	D	E		I	N	N	U	E	N	D	O
A	L	A	N		A	R	M	Y		C	R	I	E	D
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KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

SALAMIN BY DARWIN PEREZ

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

Painless way to lose weight

Part One

WELL AND GOOD
Tina Juan

WHAT you eat, when you eat, how you eat and even whom you eat with influence how much food you will consume. All these factors can help determine how much success you will have losing weight.

It is difficult to lose weight if you are constantly hungry and craving for food. Learning how to control your appetite without going hungry goes a long way in losing weight painlessly.

Protein

When it comes to suppressing appetite and promoting feelings of fullness, protein seems to be the key ingredient. Researchers at the University of Washington School of Medicine wanted to know if people lost weight on low-carbohydrate diets because carbs were restricted or because protein intake was increased.

They compared different diets with the same total calories (2,000) and same percentage of carbohydrates (50 percent) but differing percentages of protein (15 percent versus 30 percent) and fat (35 percent versus 20 percent). Participants reported being the most satisfied on the higher-protein diet even though the amount of calories and carbohydrates remained the same.

For the final phase of the experiment, participants were told to eat as much as they wanted for 12 weeks as long as they maintained a ratio of 30 percent protein, 50 percent carbohydrates, and 20 percent fat.

They lost 11 pounds in spite of the "eat all you can" instruction because their caloric intake spontaneously dropped by 450 calories a day. Credit was given to protein's appetite-suppressing "magic."

Researchers suggested cutting carbs might not be necessary for weight loss. Substituting more protein for less fat might keep hunger away. But why protein is so good at suppressing appetite is still not clear.

Carbohydrates

The type of carbohydrate you eat will also affect your appetite. Studies found that people who ate meals of mainly refined carbs like instant oatmeal, polished rice or white bread were hungrier, got hungrier sooner, and consumed more food at the next meal compared to those who ate meals with unprocessed carbohydrates (brown rice, old-fashioned oatmeal).

Vinegar

Apple cider vinegar's reputation as a "fat burner" may be deserved after all. It does not burn fat away but it controls appetite by blunting the rise in blood sugar levels, according to several studies at the Arizona State University.

Two tablespoons of vinegar taken twice a day before a high-carbohydrate meal helped participants lose an average of two pounds in four weeks. In another study, vinegar before a meal helped participants consume 200 fewer calories at their next meal.

Head researcher Carol Johnston suggests vinegars that contain five percent acetic acid, the ingredient believed to be responsible for vinegar's effectiveness. According to David Mendosa, diabetes expert, sweet and mild vinegars like apple cider, balsamic and rice vinegar may not be acidic enough. He recommends red or white wine vinegar.

Our local cane vinegar may be harsher in taste than more expensive vinegars but should work just as well. A salad with vinaigrette dressing is a healthy and delicious way to control appetite and blood sugar.

Lemon or lime juice (local alternative: *calamansi*) has the same effect on glucose levels as vinegar says Jennie Brand-Miller, one of the top experts on the glycemic index.

Volume of food

Satiety research has shown that the volume of food you eat is directly linked to how full you feel after a meal. As soon as the volume of food in your stomach reaches a certain size (it's different from one person to the next), certain sensors in your stomach tell your brain you are full. Other factors tell you when to stop eating but volume of food seems to be a major player in that decision.

Researcher Barbara Rolls discovered that when participants in her studies were allowed to serve themselves, they ate the same weight of food on most days. They were satisfied with a particular volume of food and it did not matter whether the food was low or high in calories. It was simply the bulk that made them feel full after a meal.

Food that is bulky but low in calories is called a low energy density food. It has a small amount of calories in a large serving. It usually contains a high amount of water and fiber and is low in fat. An example would be a medium-size orange, which has approximately 60 calories.

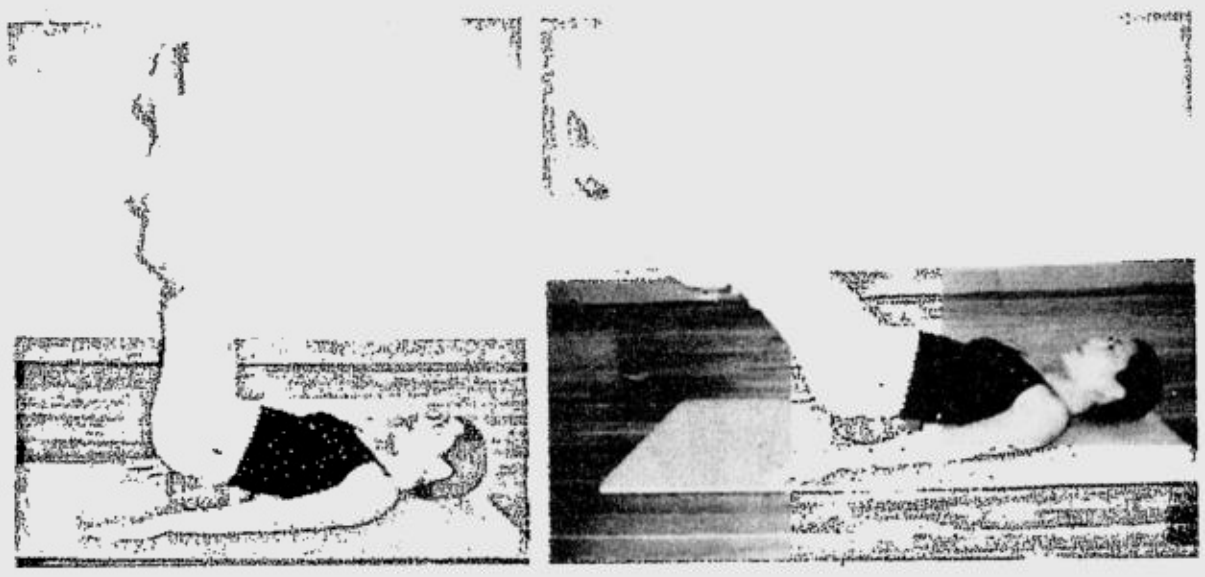
A high energy density food has a lot of calories in a small serving. It usually has a lower water and fiber content and a higher fat content like a tablespoon of mayonnaise, which has about 100 calories.

By eating food that is high in water and fiber, you can lose weight without starving or depriving yourself. In her book, "Volumetrics," Rolls gives some general guidelines: Eat more foods that are naturally rich in water, such as fruits, vegetables, low-fat milk, and cooked grains, as well as lean meats, poultry, fish, and beans. Eat more water-rich dishes like soups, stews, casseroles, pasta with lots of vegetables, and fruit-based desserts.

On the other hand, be careful with food that is very low in water. The maybe high-fat foods like potato chips, but also low-fat and fat-free foods that contain very little moisture, like pretzels, crackers and fat-free cookies.

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



Straight leg lower and raise on mini ball

TIGHTENS and tones the abdominal muscles as well as the muscles in the front of the thigh.

Equipment:
Exercise mat and mini ball

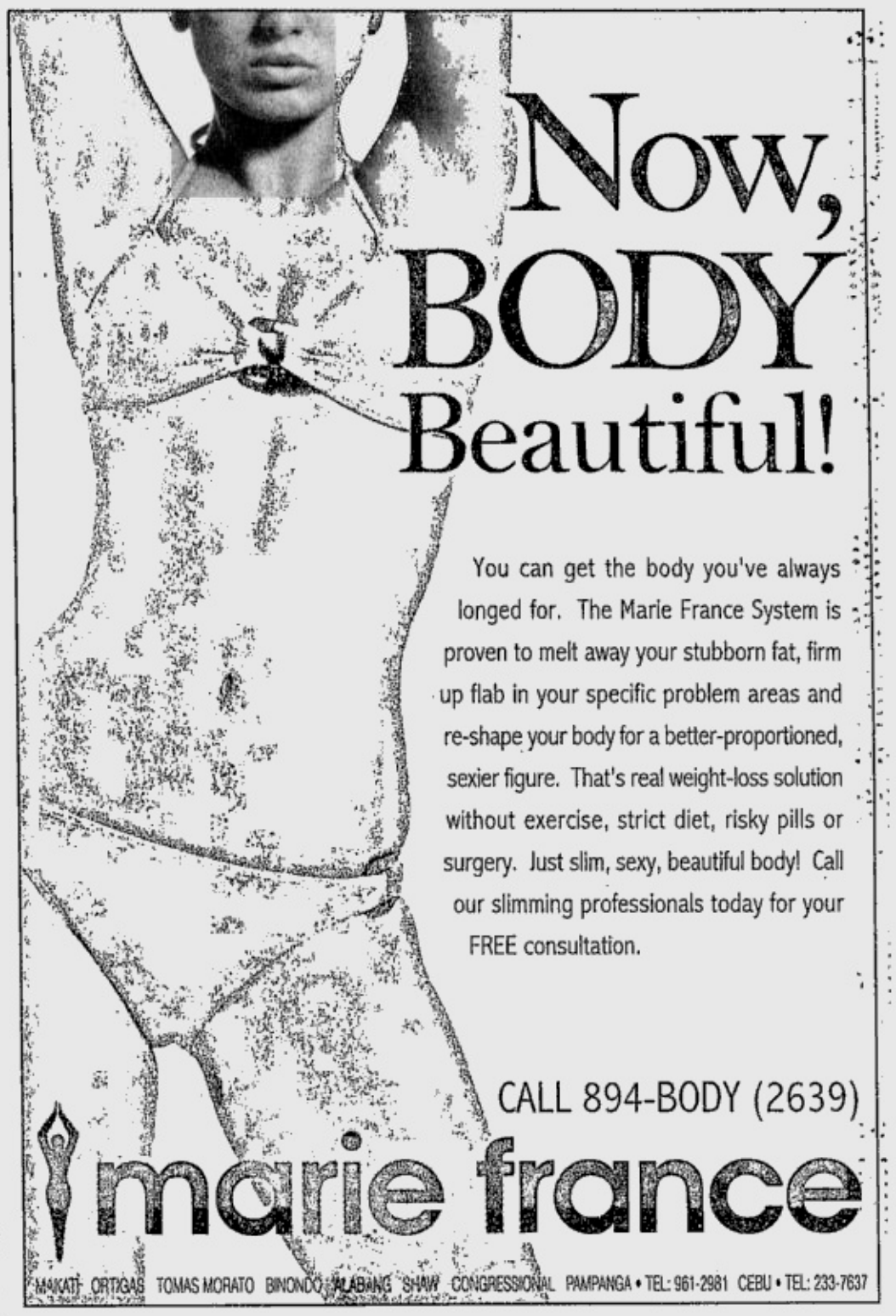
Exercise technique:

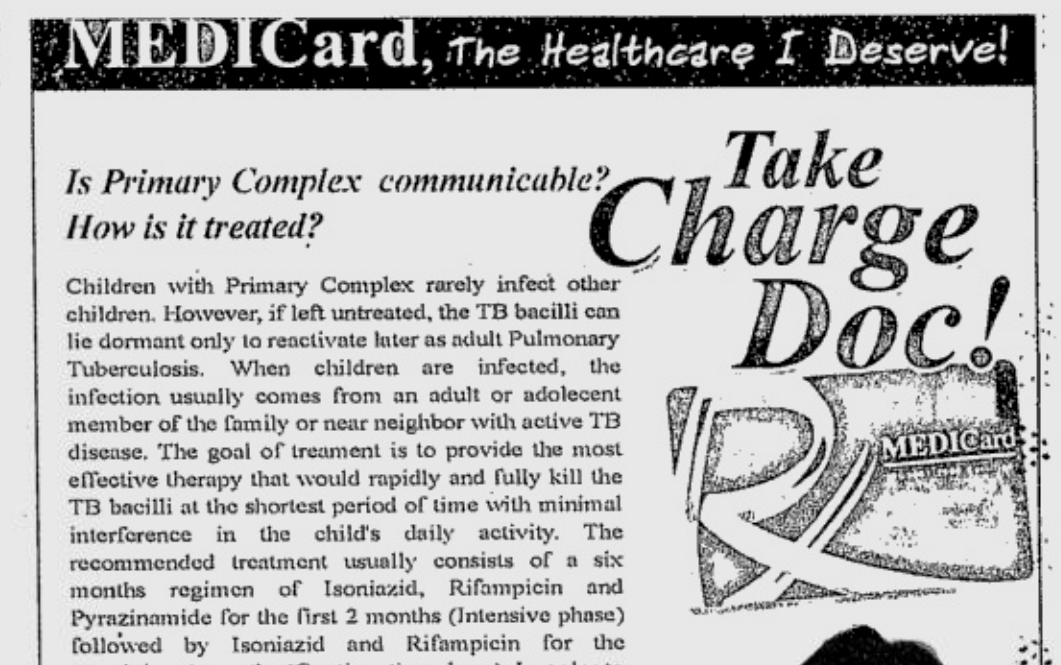
1. Lie on your back with the mini ball under your pelvis.
2. Bring your knees toward your chest then straighten them to the ceiling.
3. Tighten your abdominal muscles as you lower both legs.
4. Lower the legs only as far as you can maintain tightness in the abs, then raise the legs to the starting position.
5. Do the desired number of repetitions.

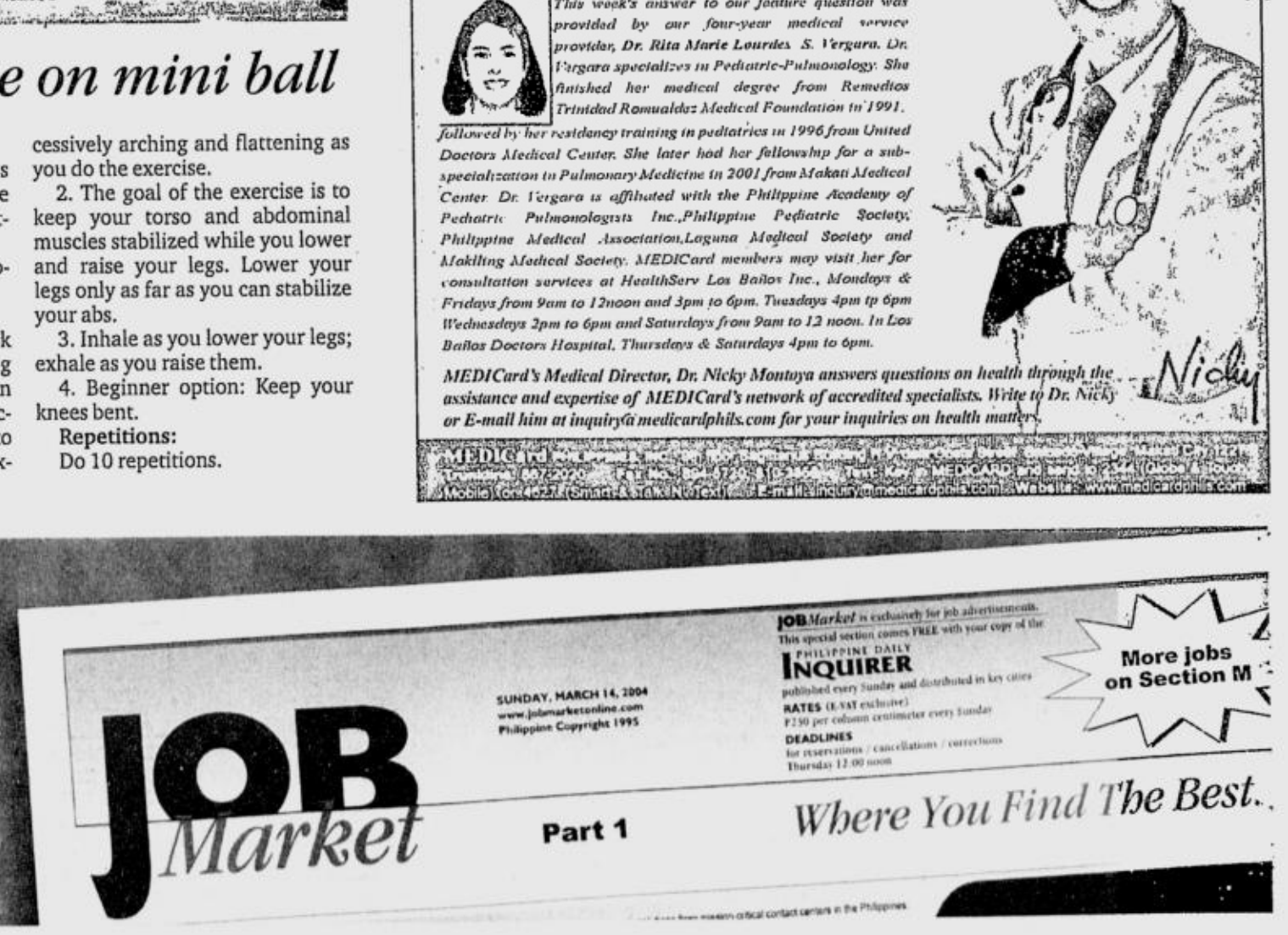
Performance tips:

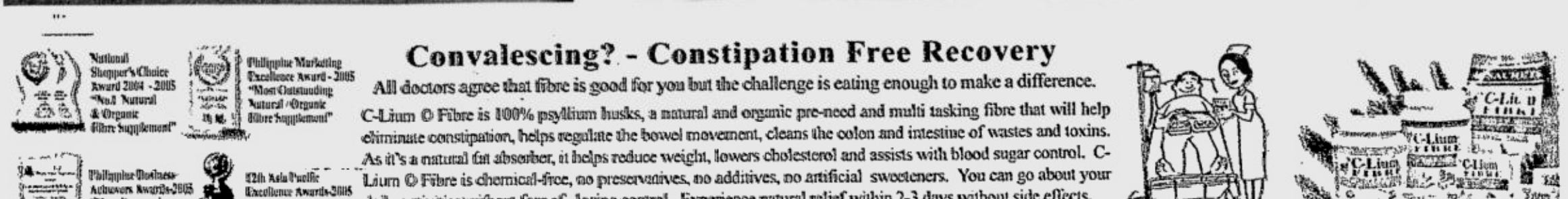
1. Do not allow your lower back to arch while you are lowering your legs. Maintain a certain amount of tightness and contraction in your abdominal muscles to prevent your lower back from excessively arching and flattening as you do the exercise.
2. The goal of the exercise is to keep your torso and abdominal muscles stabilized while you lower and raise your legs. Lower your legs only as far as you can stabilize your abs.
3. Inhale as you lower your legs; exhale as you raise them.
4. Beginner option: Keep your knees bent.

Repetitions:
Do 10 repetitions.









FRANCO de Guzman and his Orange Grove band rocked the house

SALLY and Teddy Djuhar

GEORGETOWN'S Andrew Don with top jeweler Doody Tuason

BRILLIANT Maite Gallego with Paul Zaldarriaga

JV Borromeo and wife Marivic Ortigas-Borromeo

BOBBY Cuenca and wife Chingbee Kalaw

SHARMILA Hiranand with businessman Mikey Cojuangco and Haresh Hiranand

IMELDA Avancena with Clarissa Bautista and Monica Grande

MEGA businessmen Koncoy Tuason with Paqui Ortigas

EXOTIC Bindu Punj with husband, New Delhi tycoon Mickey Punj

EYE-CATCHING Maripi Muscat with Amanda de Guzman and popular Johnny Velasquez

Birthday bash for banking whiz

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using Kodak EasyShare system

THE wealthiest and most influential people in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Paris and Cosmo Manille jetted to Singapore to attend a birthday bash.

With the retro-cool soundtrack of Spirit of '67 and the free-flowing champagne and fabulous eclectic company, there was no reason not to have an amazing time.

It was the birthday bash of banking whiz **Bing de Guzman,** ING Asia's international private banking CEO. Tons of tycoons, royalty, internationally renowned beautiful party people, and bright young gorgeous things were there, all ready to let their hair down and party till they dropped, way after Cinderella's time to rush home, *palanggas.*

At the most relaxing, yet elegant, venue—the bar and billiard room of the world-class Raffles Hotel—the atmosphere epitomized colonial chic. Chandeliers and high ceiling provided the perfect backdrop for modern, brightly colored couture.

Asia's beautiful people

Tall and chic woman of substance, gorgeous **Kathy de Guzman** was stylish as always in a Dali-esque Gaultier. Her daughter, brilliant and beautiful headturner **Amanda de Guzman,** floated across the room in an ethereal Stella McCartney. Younger son **Franco de Guzman** rocked the house with his band, Orange Grove, exuding the confidence of a much more experienced performer. The group's original lyrics and music, along with Franco's enormous stage presence, won over many. One excited groupie exclaimed, "I want to have your babies!" making the singer a little embarrassed.

In the beautiful crowd were partying name-droppables from Manille's busy social scene who hobnobbed with others like them who flew in from other parts of Asia, throughout the whole evening. The occasion was marked by conversation, dancing and the expected bad behavior at high levels.

Professional power couples—stunning **Doody Menchaca T,** chic as always, with her ever charming husband, intellectual businessman **Koncoy Tuason;** exotic **Sharmila** and husband, fun **Haresh Hiranand;** Harrison Plaza's brain and Tatler's mega publisher **Irene Martel,** with husband, renowned cardiologist Dr. **Randy;** fabulous looking couple **Mikey Cojuangco** and wife, tall beauty **Lizette Bengzon;** and world traveler **Chingbee Kalaw** with her **Bobby Cuenca**—proved that long-married pairs could still party like it's 1999.

Kathy's closest pal, banker **Raul Manzano,** also of Metro Society mag, added some salt and pepper; while Singapore regular, world business traveler vibrant **Karen Santos,** was a perfect flirt. Stylish and eye-catching **Maripi Muscat** had the men's eyes following her around, some sweeping her to the dance floor.

Award-winning passion

The socialite who loves world-class ballroom dancing so much, and has won trophies abroad for her passion on the dance floor, **Linda Florendo L.,** performed a wicked Argentinian tango, with a routine worthy of Backpool. Husband **Tonet Lagdameo** kept pace with the evening's adrenaline-pumping entertainment.

Bing's golfing buddies, **Ernest Cuyegkeng, Willie Pamplona** and **Marie Antunez,** jetted in for a weekend of golf, socials and shopping, *palanggas.*

Malaysian intensity 9 shaker, **Rohana Tan Sri Mahmood,** the lady responsible for the highly successful Singaporean Botero exhibition, breezed in with her gang of royal economic pillars, **Dato Munir-Majid,** chair of Malaysian Airlines; **Tenku Datu Ibrahim Petra** and his super nice wife **Nariza,** no less; and good-looking couple **Marina** and **Ross Indot.**

The Singapore set proved to be highly cosmopolitan and ridiculously sexy. Perpetual international "it" girl, **Rena Sindi,** a vision in white, sashayed enticingly on the dance floor with the beautiful **Selina Lin,** celebrated jeweler and glamour girl. **Chris Notto,** antique dealer extraordinaire, shook his fabulous behind, a different beautiful thing all over him with every song. **Andrew Don,** Amanda's pal from Georgetown, along with the "it" hunk, **Sam Stonefield,** another super pal of Amanda's that never misses a happening, proved to be the beautiful blondes that everyone, male and female, young and young at heart wanted to take home that night.

Best behavior

Though Sam drunkenly recited Shakespeare to a delighted lady, and **Andrew** wore out his Converse sneakers from far too much dirty dancing, the two were on their best behavior.

Tycoons from around the region dropped their guard and boogied the night away. **Piet Yap** of Bogasari in Indonesia, with his daughter **Wendy; Teddy Djuhar** of Indocement; **BS Ong** of Hotel Properties whose son, **Johnny,** was lead guitarist of the Orange Grove band; CK OW of Singapore Shipping and Stamford Properties; **Khun Chartchai Piyasombatkul** of Metro-Ply, the largest integrated wood manufacturer in Thailand, *palanggas;* teak exporter **Khun Somsak Vayakornvichitr;** New Delhi construction magnate **Mikey Punj,** with his elegant wife **Bindu; Ashok Melwani,** CEO of AB Melwani PTE LTD; the famous **Victor Sassoon** of Coffee Bean; intelligent **Gigi Montinola,** president of Bank of the Philippine Islands; incredibly interesting gentleman for all seasons **Paqui Ortigas;** and world traveler, vivacious **Nene Quimson** with cyber smart stock exchange queen **Vivian Yuchengco** and many more had an awesome time rockin' and rollin' to the fab Spirit of '67, dahlings.

Bing had barely uttered "thank you," before a cake appeared, accompanied by a rowdy rendition of "Happy Birthday" that left no room for regrets about this fab event. "I still get excited," Bing laughed. "It's totally about how you feel."

As for the Singapore crowd, there was only one cool comment, "This was surely one hell of a night."

STYLISH Kathy de Guzman with the birthday boy, banker Renato "Bing" de Guzman, CEO of Asia Pacific's ING Private Banking

MAURICE Arcache (as in, *moi*) with heiress Rita Iskandar, Lizette Cojuangco, May Filmeridis, and BPI's Gigi Montinola

FORMER Ambassador to Manille Delfin Colome with Tonet Lagdameo, Nene Quimson and vivacious Elena Colome

MALAYSIAN Sandra Wong with Rohana Tan Sri Mahmood, glamorous Marina Indot and elegant Datin Nariza Hajjar Hashim

RANDY Francisco, Raul Manzano, Irene Martel Francisco and Karen Santos

TEDDY Djuhar, chair, Indocement, with Bing de Guzman, Luisa Carral and husband Ambassador Andres Carral

Hypnosis is not for amateurs

WHAT is a trance state? Why does it happen? What does a person think, feel or see when in a trance? Is there a danger to it?

Trance is the same as being in a state of hypnosis, which is defined as a "state of heightened suggestibility." A person in a trance easily accepts without question what the hypnotist tells him. It is also a state of complete physical passivity and mental receptivity. Inner resistance is almost absent.

A person under deep hypnosis will accept whatever is told him.

But there are many levels of hypnosis or trance. In a light trance, the subject is aware of what's going on and can accept or reject what is being told him.

An example of light trance is when a person is driving on a highway and does not notice the car he is following has changed. Or a person listening in rapt attention to beautiful music may not hear his mother calling his name at the top of her voice.

The meditative state is another example of light trance. When a person is in a meditative state and his brain wave slows down to the Alpha level, seven to 14 cycles per second, he is in a light trance, or in an altered state of consciousness.

If he goes deeper than that, he begins to feel numb and may feel like floating, or sometimes feel very heavy and can hardly move. This is the deep trance state. At this level, his brain wave slows down to four to seven cycles per second, what is called the Theta brain wave level.

Safe

When done by a competent and trained hypnotist or hypno-therapist, trance states are usually safe. And the subject can be guided back to normal conscious awareness.

We should not allow ourselves to be hypnotized by somebody we do not know, or whose training and background are unknown to us.

I remember a case of several teenagers who read a book on past life regression. Following the book, they hypnotized their 18-year-old cousin to a past life 150 years ago. They succeeded in doing so.

She described what it was like where she was. Then she began crying and could not stop. Her companions tried to get her out of the trance state by shaking and slapping her, but they could not wake her up.

Then somebody thought of looking me up in the phone book and calling me. I talked to the person who did the induction and gave him instructions on what to do. Following my instructions, he was able to bring her back to waking consciousness after a few minutes. I told them never to try that stuff again because there were dangers they might not be able to handle.

Modern hypnosis began with Anton Mesmer in France in the 18th century. He thought that the reason why a person went into a trance was because of a mysterious magnetic fluid transferred from the hypnotist to the subject. That's why he used magnets during the process.

Later, it was learned that no such magnetic fluid existed and one could hypnotize a person even on the phone or at a distance.

Useful

There are many uses for hypnosis. It has been successfully used in medicine, during surgery. Persons allergic to anesthesia can be hypnotized not to feel pain. Child birth without pain is another successful application of hypnosis.

But one use of hypnosis which is not well known is in forensics or crime detection. In some western countries, hypnotists are called to make a witness or victims of crime recall what the conscious mind may have forgotten.

States of trance are as old as human history. In the Christian Bible, we find many examples of these. When people hear voices or see visions of divine beings, they are in trance or hypnotic state. One can go into trance without anybody inducing him or her to be in that state.

One of the practical uses of trance states is in healing. Shamans of Africa, South America and American Indians, for example, go into trance to diagnose illness and heal people. The same is done by our local faith healers and psychic surgeons.

While a patient is in a trance, a healer can obtain information, either from the subconscious mind or from the Akashic Record, to know what's ailing a person and effect a cure. The healer or shaman can also give sound advice on what to do to solve problems while he or she is in trance.

Science should study such states of consciousness, rather than ignore them.

Note: I'll be conducting a seminar on Inner Mind Development and Self-Healing at Mandaya Hotel in Davao, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sept. 2. Interested parties may contact Jess Saplala at 0917-8313619.

E-mail jlicauco@etsamail.com.ph. Visit website at www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco

■ WORLD / A8
Massive storm Katrina pummels US Gulf Coast; 54 dead

■ METRO / A24
Lawyers to present audio tapes in court vs Roldan in kidnap case

■ ACROSS / A22
Lozano also filed impeachment raps vs GMA in 2000

■ NEWS / A2
'Friendly persuasion' works vs 'jueteng,' says Hagedorn

'Pagcor takes care of media and bishops' for GMA

By John Nery

EVEN IN the early stages of the wiretapping controversy, President Macapagal-Arroyo was apparently already prepared to send her controversial husband into exile. But if a former Cabinet member's recollection is correct, she refused to remove her husband's crony,

PAGCOR/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Wednesday, August 31, 2005 ★★★ 68 pages / 8 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 264 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Palace ignores Piatco deal: It's 'a private transaction'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Armand N. Nocum

MALACAÑANG yesterday ignored the shareholder shake-up at the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco), saying the government would take the lead in opening the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia)

PALACE/ A7

PAPER TRAIL. The opposition leaves behind a paper trail of frustration and failure.

BEDLAM follows the declaration by House justice committee chair Simeon Datumanong to terminate the debates; the opposition congressmen stream out of the plenary hall.

GMA foes stage walkout

Rep. Villar makes 49, and still counting

By Michael Lim Ubac and Philip C. Tubeza

OPPOSITION efforts to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo received a boost yesterday when a key member of the Nacionalista Party endorsed the impeachment complaint against her.

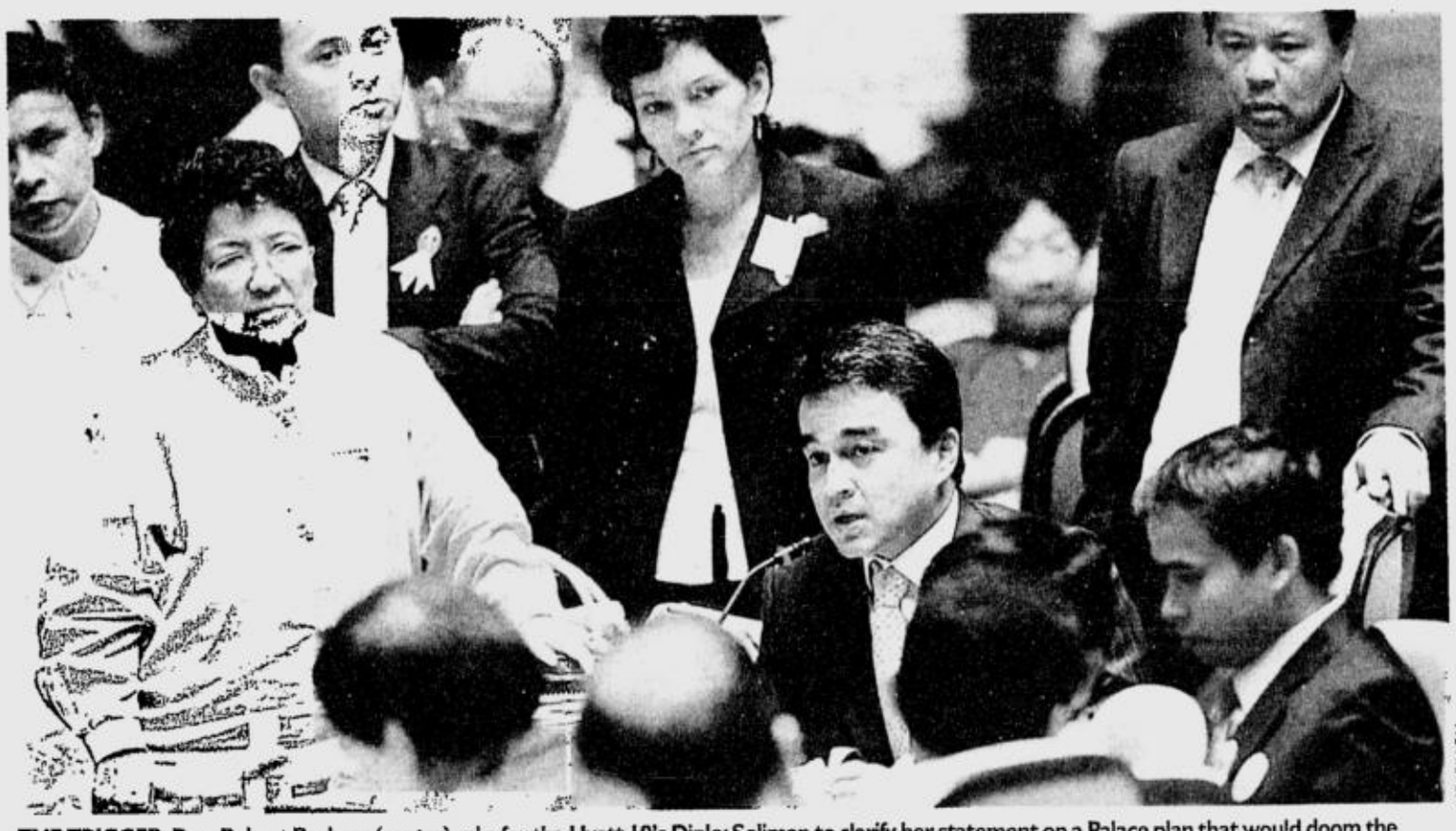
Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar sent her resolution of endorsement to the impeachment team right after she arrived from China yesterday, impeachment team spokesperson Alan Peter Cayetano said.

Villar's vote is deemed crucial because she and her husband, Sen. Manuel Villar, head the party they revived two years ago.

From a two-member group, the NP now counts 18 House members.

Cayetano said that while the official number of signatories to the impeachment complaint now

REP. VILLAR/ A22



THE TRIGGER: Rep. Robert Barbers (center) asks for the Hyatt 10's Dinky Soliman to clarify her statement on a Palace plan that would doom the impeachment complaint to failure. Others in photo are (L to R) Reps. Sonny Angara, Etta Rosales, Risa Hontiveros, Augusto Baculio and Joel Villanueva.

Theatrics, a planned tantrum, says Palace

By Michael Lim Ubac

AS THOUGH foreshadowing a reprise of then President Joseph Estrada's aborted impeachment trial, proimpeachment lawmakers yesterday walked out of the House justice committee hearing, claiming the proceedings were being railroaded.

Tumult broke out when Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong, chair of the justice committee and a staunch ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, ruled out further debate on whether the amended impeachment complaint was "separate and distinct" from the other two.

The proimpeachment lawmakers walked out at around 4:15 p.m., flinging papers into the air. Observers in the gallery roared in approval and displayed thumbs-down signs.

"They want to railroad the process. The De Venecia railroad is working double-, triple-time to railroad everything. I warn those in Malacañang, all of you will pay for this," said House Deputy Minority Leader Teofisto Guingona III.

But the administration-domi-

GMA FOES/ A22

Opposition in full force in and out of House

By Philip C. Tubeza and DJ Yap

THE FIRST sign of trouble flashed yesterday at 3:15 p.m. when members of militant youth groups Anakbayan, League of Filipino Students and Youth Dare unfurled a banner in the House gallery blaring "Impeach GMA."

House security officers quickly moved on the students and noisily dragged them out of the plenary hall. Outside, policemen had to bodily remove a number of students who tried to block the van that was to take five of the protesters to the nearby Batasan Hills police station.

"*Pekeng Pangulo* (Fake President) Gloria Arroyo!" the students shouted.

Later at around 4:15 p.m., when justice committee chair Rep. Simeon Datumanong tried to start a vote on the first prejudicial

OPPOSITION/ A21

THE STAR up in the gallery, Susan Roces, sits glumly beside Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay.

Gloria jokes spice up Susan party

By Fe Zamora

EVEN an "instant holiday" failed to stop proimpeachment congressmen from poking fun at efforts of President Macapagal-Arroyo to kill the impeachment complaint against her.

GLORIA/ A20

Dinky: Lozano complaint manipulated from Day 1

By Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo had just delivered her nationally televised "I am sorry" speech on the night of June 27 when she was told that lawyer Oliver Lozano had filed an impeachment complaint in Congress earlier in the day.

Political adviser Gabriel Claudio broke the news to Ms Arroyo as she walked along with then Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman on the second floor of the Premier Guest House at Malacañang.

"President Arroyo asked if it had been endorsed," Soliman said, recounting the incident at a news conference yesterday. Soliman said Claudio replied that it had not.

"*Pa*-endorse *mo na* (Have it endorsed now)," Ms Arroyo was quoted by Soliman as telling Claudio. Claudio said he would call Rep. Rodante Marcoleta, a party-list lawmaker, who forthwith put his stamp on the complaint.

"It is only now do I realize the full import of the Lozano complaint," Soliman said, referring to the administration efforts in the House committee on justice to hear only the Lozano complaint and junk the subsequent pleadings.

"At this juncture, I felt I needed to make a statement," Soliman said.

Soliman has since resigned from the Cabinet in the wake of the President's confession that hers was the voice in a wiretapped conversation caught during the balloting talking with an election official, widely believed to be Virgilio Garcillano. She apologized to the nation for a "lapse in judgment."

The opposition has charged that the wiretap is evidence Ms Arroyo rigged the election—a

DINKY/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2005

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Second FRONT PAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Batanes and Calayan group of islands will experience occasional rains with gusty winds and the coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to rough. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY: ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/08/31/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Persuasion works vs 'jueteng'

Insurance chief staying put

By Michelle V. Remo

AFTER getting Malacañang's assurance that he would keep his job, Insurance Commissioner Benjamin Santos yesterday decided to stay put.

"I don't have any intention now to resign," Santos declared after Malacañang promised over the weekend that he would not be replaced.

Santos was earlier reported to have resigned as a preemptive move following rumors of his imminent ouster from his post.

He earlier alleged that people adversely affected by his reform programs to save the insurance industry from rampant corrupt activities were pressuring President Macapagal-Arroyo to replace him.

Santos said he got a call last Saturday night from Jake Lagonera, senior deputy executive secretary, telling him that the President would retain him as chief of the Insurance Commission.

He recalled that after he took over the top IC post in August last year, he had prepared a development plan for the insurance industry. The plan includes programs that will address the proliferation of unscrupulous firms selling fake insurance policies.

"The nonlife insurance industry is actually suffering from bigger troubles than the pre-need industry," he said.

While the pre-need industry is confronted with financial problems by some of its members, Santos explained, the nonlife insurance industry is beset with problems posed by syndicates that defraud the public by offering fake policies, or nonremittance of collected insurance payments.

"I submitted the plan to former Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, and he approved of it. I believed I worked well with Purisima and so with former Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong (who headed the finance department prior to Purisima)," Santos said.

He grumbled, however, about what he perceived to be a cold treatment he's getting from now Finance Secretary Margarito "Gary" Teves.

Teves took over last July after Purisima resigned together with other members of the so-called Hyatt 10.

"I submitted a copy of the plan to Mr. Teves, but until now I have not gotten a reply," Santos lamented.

Santos said he had been receiving good feedback about his performance, but with Teves at the top finance post, "it seems I am reapplying for my job," he said. Teves wanted another person to head the IC, he guessed.

Santos said his development plan for the insurance industry includes the creation of accredited consortia that will be the sole issuers of insurance policies.

He said there was an ongoing effort in the IC to select legitimate nonlife insurance companies that will form the consortium which will issue insurance policies.

"We were looking at putting up one or two consortia that will be tasked with issuing the policies," Santos said.

By doing this, the rampant sale of fake insurance policies by illegitimate insurance firms would be addressed, he said.

In 2004, Santos noted, there were about 4 million vehicles that were registered with the Land Transportation Office.

With this number, he said, the insurance industry should have collected at least P2.4 billion in revenues from sold insurance policies (insurance policies for vehicles are worth P600 to P700).

But official records from the insurance industry showed that it only generated about P1.25 billion in revenues from sold vehicle insurance policies.

3 captains freed from Army detention

By Dona Pazzibugan

THREE Army captains who said Malacañang had ordered the military to spy on opposition candidates in the last elections were released from detention yesterday.

Capt. Peter Navarro, leader of the group "Kawal Pilipino," and fellow Captains Philip Esmeralda and Rembert Baylosis were reinstated in the Army more than two months after they struck a plea bargain with military prosecutors.

Army chief, Maj. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said it took the Army two months to review the recommendation made by a court martial.

The release orders for the three captains were signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo and the newly-installed military chief, Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga and Esperon.

"I hereby order your immediate release and your restoration to full duty status. I hereby admonish you to be more circumspect in all your dealings in the future," Esperon told the three officers in simple ceremonies in Fort Bonifacio yesterday.

The three rebel officers however would not yet assume duties.

Esperon said the three would remain "attached and unassigned" in the Army headquarters while waiting for their assignments.

In an interview, Navarro advised fellow disgruntled soldiers to "think twice" before turning against the government.

He however refused to comment when asked if he would discourage other like-minded officers. "They have to think twice," he said, adding "there are lessons learned in every endeavor.

"I am thankful to [the President] for giving us another chance," he added. His sister Blessie Navarro was in tears during the ceremonies.

On Jan. 28, 2004, a group of masked soldiers calling themselves Kawal Pilipino held a clandestine news conference claiming that Malacañang had ordered the military to spy on the President's election rivals. *With AFP*

Hagedorn takes 'friendly' tack on governors, mayors

By Jerry E. Esplanada

GOOD news from the Arroyo administration's antijueteng czar: the "friendly persuasion" tactic really works.

To prove his claim, Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn has furnished the INQUIRER copies of documents, including an Aug. 24 resolution signed by, among others, Lubao, Pampanga Mayor Dennis G. Pineda, a son of Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, said to be the undisputed jueteng lord in Pampanga, the home province of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Bong Pineda had allegedly backed Ms Arroyo's vice presidential bid in 1998 and when she ran for president in 2004, where he supposedly donated at least P300 million in jueteng funds.

The younger Pineda, who is Pampanga chapter president of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP), pledged to "eradicate and put to a complete halt the operation of jueteng" in his area of jurisdiction.

Commitment

In an exclusive interview, Hagedorn said he also "got the same commitment" from Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson and Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez had also made the "same commitment."

"Chavit and I have talked. I'm really happy because Chavit immediately passed a resolution where he committed to help the President in the antijueteng campaign," said Hagedorn.

Singson, the whistle-blower in the jueteng scandal that led to the ouster of former President Joseph Estrada, made his pledge during a recent meeting with Hagedorn at the Manila Pavilion hotel.

The controversial governor, however, has yet to furnish the antijueteng czar a copy of the Ilocos Sur resolution.

Hagedorn is grateful his appeal also got a positive response from Gov. Sanchez, alleged to be Batangas province's top jueteng lord, during a recent meeting at the Mandarin hotel in Makati City.

Other signatories of the LMP resolution include Isabela chapter president Mayor Napoleon Dy, a member of the still influential Dy clan in Isabela province, and Pangasinan chapter president Mayor Ramon Guico Jr.

Pangasinan and Isabela are among the jueteng "hotspots" in Northern Luzon, according to Hagedorn.

Other LMP chapter presidents who affixed their signature in the document, where they also pledged to "turn around the culture of gambling that has been cultivated by jueteng" as well as "call on our constituents, civic associations and sectoral groups to complement these efforts," were: Mayor Corazon Abad (Ilocos Norte), who also signed in behalf of Mayor Estelita Aquino of the Tarlac chapter; Mayor Jesus Bueno Jr. (Ilocos Sur); Mayor Ambrosio Cruz (Bulacan); Mayor Guillermo Acero (Laguna); Mayor Norberto Mendoza (Oriental Mindoro); Mayor Melquiades Gaite (Camarines Sur); Mayor Adorlito Ginete (Batangas); Mayor William Uy (Isabela); Mayor Raymundo del Rosario (Cavite); Mayor David Emralino (Quezon); Mayor Tomas Pizarro (Marinduque); and Mayor Gerardo Calderon (Rizal).

Hopeful

Hagedorn said he was "hopeful more local officials will follow their example," including those attending the 1,494-member LMP's annual conference which Puerto Princesa City is hosting this year.

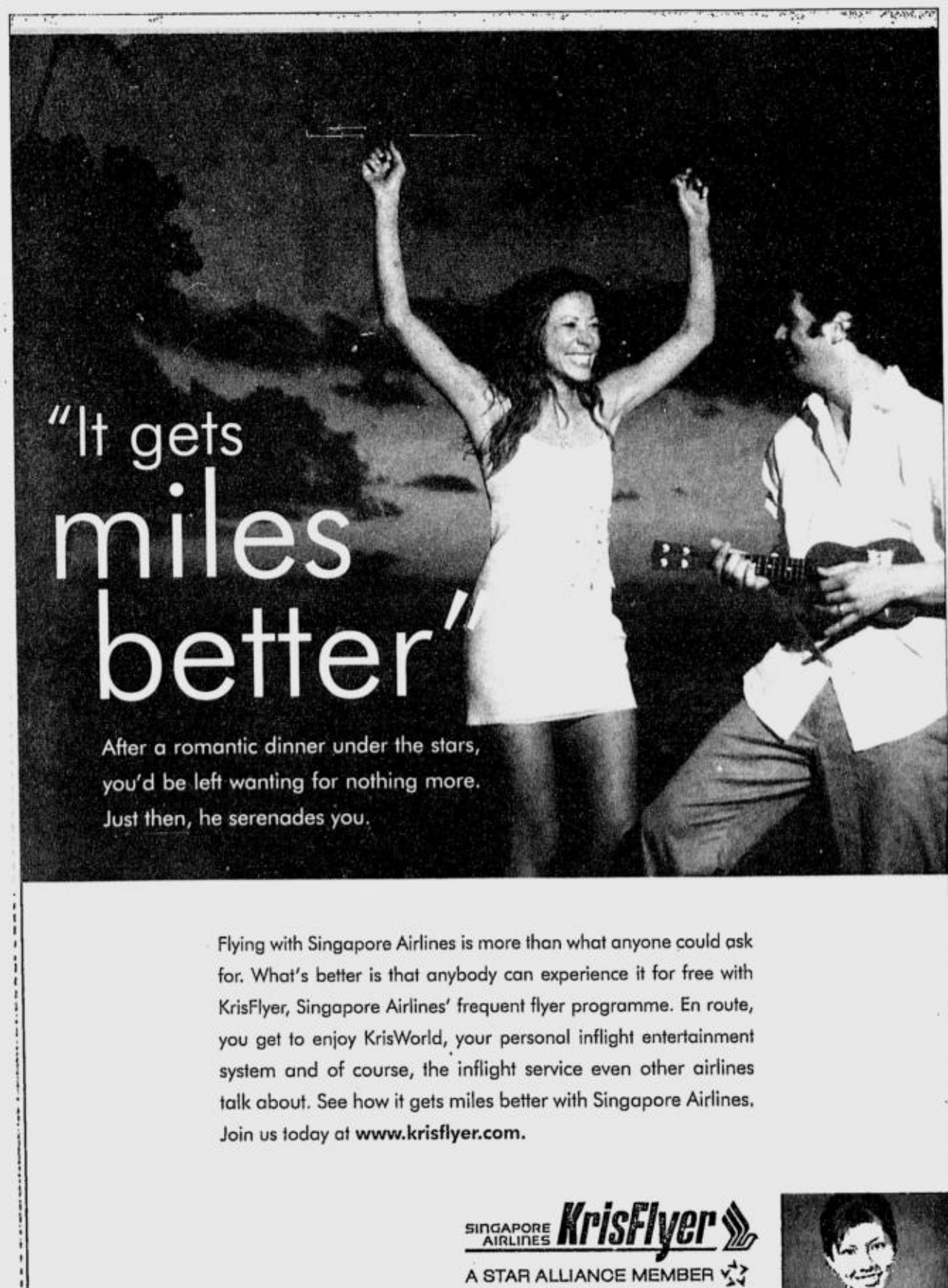
He is set to meet with other governors and "other you-know-whos," apparently referring to suspected jueteng lords whom he said "have expressed willingness to support 100 percent President GMA's call for total jueteng eradication."

"I don't think they have a choice? As I've said earlier, first we'll employ friendly persuasion. If they ignore that, then they'll be facing the full force of the law," Hagedorn noted.

In the next two weeks, the antijueteng task force "will kick into high gear in jueteng hotspots in Regions 1 to 5," where the drive is concentrated.

"Out of 39 Luzon provinces, only nine are practically jueteng-free. Of the 30 other provinces, reports reaching us say there are currently no jueteng operations in about 90 percent of those places," he disclosed.

But "they'll always be temporary as long as no permanent solutions are put in place. If we don't do anything, then they'll be back in just a matter of time. I should know, I was once a jueteng operator myself (in Palawan during the 1980s)," Hagedorn told the INQUIRER.



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Angara says he won't do an Enrile, stays with Senate minority

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

OPPOSITION Sen. Edgardo Angara yesterday clarified he was not joining the majority like Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile did last week.

Enrile bolted the minority, reducing it to eight and boosting the majority to 15. After Enrile's defection, it was widely speculated in the Senate that Angara would follow suit.

"I'll stay with the opposition but I will keep an independent stance," Angara told reporters yesterday.

Angara said he discussed this with Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who accepted his position.

Angara, president of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, explained that while remaining an opposition he would support administration measures that are consistent with his own advocacies.

But he said he does not have a "working coalition" with the majority as Enrile had.

Angara said he should not be considered not a member of the minority just because he does not attend its caucuses or meetings. He said he does not want to attend the minority meetings because of two persons there.

Angara is not seeing eye to eye with fellow opposition senators Panfilo Lacson and Serge Osmeña.

"Being an opposition is an ideological state of mind," Angara said.

But Angara said he has not closed the doors to a coalition with the Arroyo administration.

Ms Arroyo offered him a post in the Cabinet last year but he said he declined it because he was not about to leave his Senate seat.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said Enrile has joined the Senate majority but remains an opposition with respect to Malacañang.

Drilon, who facilitated Enrile's transfer to the majority, said Enrile felt he was not welcome any more in the minority.

Drilon said Enrile was not gunning for the Senate presidency as reported and has not even asked for a committee chairmanship.

But he said Enrile could be given a chairmanship.

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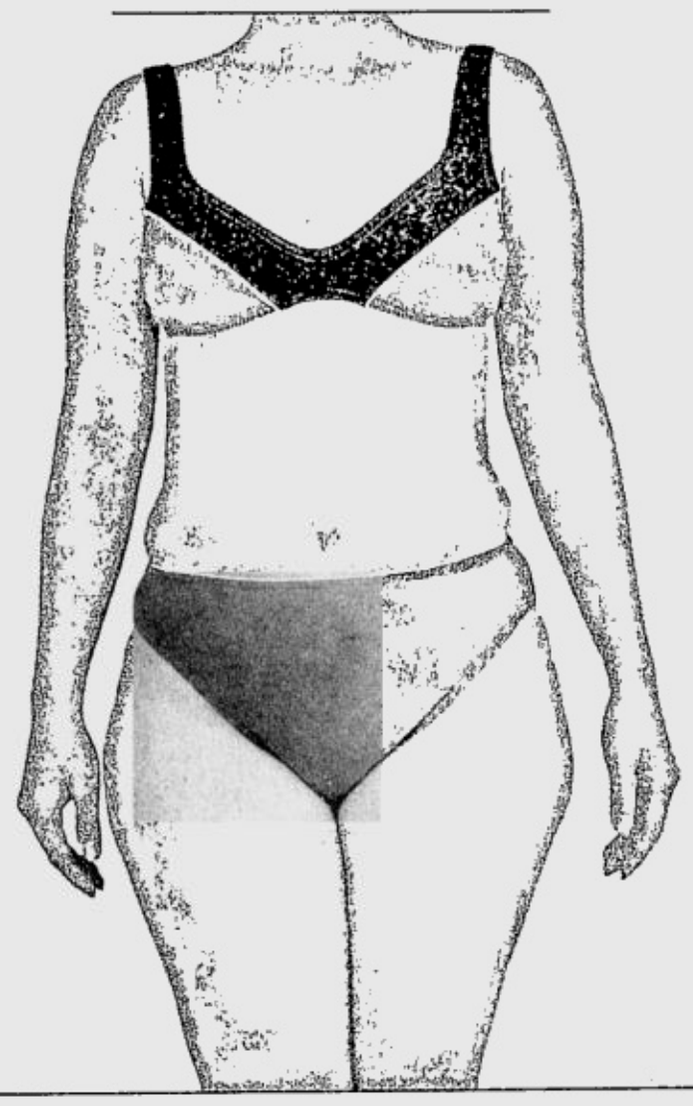

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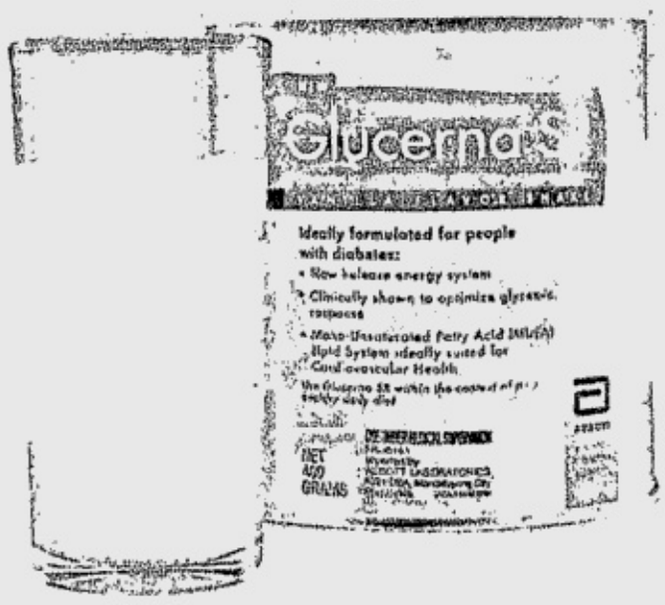

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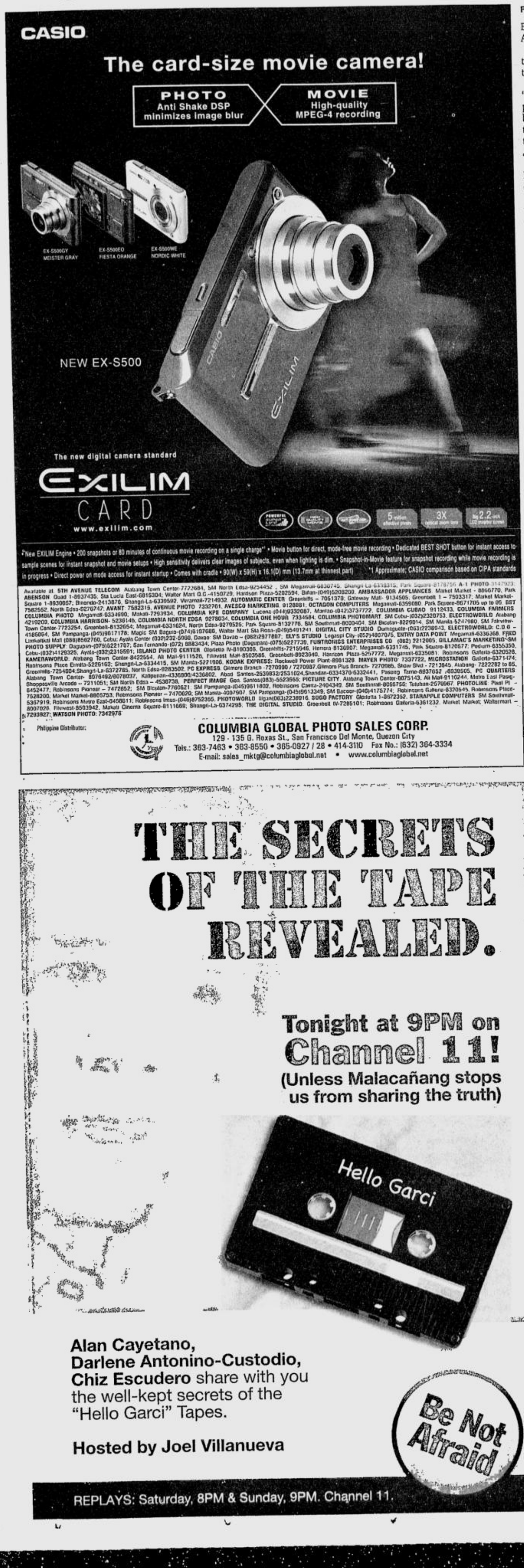
'Pagcor takes care of media and bishops' for GMA



From page A1

Efraim Genuino, as chair of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

"I need him to survive," Ms Arroyo reportedly told a group of seven Cabinet members. "He takes care of the media and the bishops."

Former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman revealed the President's supposed reply in a forum conducted yesterday by the Black and White Movement and attended by members of the so-called Hyatt 10, the Cabinet-level officials who resigned on July 8. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

In opening the press conference, former Education Secretary Florencio Abad also noted the President's reference to Genuino.

Pagcor is one of the country's most profitable corporations, but under Genuino, it has come under repeated fire for alleged mismanagement or abuse of state resources. Since last year, it has also had to answer charges that it helped fund the President's election campaign.

Newsbreak magazine has also published a report, based on the testimony of Pagcor insiders, showing that portions of the "Hello Garci" tapes, earlier identified as conversations that Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano had with either ex-Sen. Robert Barbers or First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, featured Genuino on the other end of the line.

Malacañang and Pagcor denied the Soliman story. "I have never heard of this line before," said Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo. Pagcor spokesperson Edward King said Genuino had remained on the job for "performing well" and raising revenues. King also said Pagcor funds were under close scrutiny by the Commission on Audit.

Out of the ordinary

By most accounts, it was an extraordinary meeting, part of a series of unusual gatherings Cabinet officials were holding in June, with or without the President, after the Garcillano scandal broke in the wake of the Senate hearings on the "jueteng" numbers game.

Former Education Secretary Florencio "Butch" Abad told the forum in Makati that a small group was tasked by the Cabinet to talk to the President about the jueteng and wiretaps. Abad then called on Soliman, one of the "eyewitnesses," to detail the circumstances of the meeting.

"It was June 19 or 20, in the evening," Soliman said, speaking in Filipino. "There were seven of us, including Vice President [Noli] de Castro."

In the forum, and later in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER, Soliman could recall only two other members of that seven-man delegation: Cesar Purisima and Juan Santos, now both members of the Hyatt 10.

In the phone interview with the INQUIRER, Soliman was careful to draw the context of the meeting.

Cabinet officials were concerned about "scandals associated with Mike Arroyo," she said, and the smaller group was assigned to propose certain reforms to the President.

At one point in the meeting, the group aired "the proposal that they do self-exile," referring to the First Gentleman, his son Rep. Mikey Arroyo, and his brother, Rep. Iggy Arroyo, all of whom were implicated in the jueteng scandal.

GENUINO: Most "dependable"?
ROGER MARGALLO

Soliman remembered the President's forthright reply: "It is going to happen."

The group then raised a second proposal: "Those that were associated with Mike Arroyo be removed, because rightly or wrongly, the perception is that they are using the agencies for the interest of Mr. Arroyo."

Soliman said the President's initial reply to the second proposal was a question: "Can you give an example?"

Soliman no longer remembers who among the seven answered, but Genuino's name was given, as the only example.

At that, the President reportedly replied: "I need him to survive. He takes care of the media and the bishops."

Dependence on Genuino?

Both in the forum and during the phone interview, Soliman declined to elaborate on what the President's statements meant.

"Yung sinabi ko, 'yun ang narinig ko. Walang dagdag, walang bawas (What I said is what I heard, no more, no less)," Soliman said, using a playful reference to the popular short-hand for wholesale election fraud.

In the interview, Soliman said she took the President's words at their face value. "At that point, I just took it for what it meant."

When did she start to think there was more to the President's confession of dependence on Genuino? "After all this talk of high pressure" being exerted by the Palace surfaced, she replied.

At one point in the forum, Soliman turned emotional. *"Masakit sabihin yan, 'pagkat maaring kasama ako sa paglilinlang* (It's hard to say all these things about the President, because it's possible that I was part of the deception]," Soliman said, her voice breaking.

To corroborate charges

At the forum, another member of the Hyatt 10, Teresita "Ging" Deles, emphasized the group's willingness to support the impeachment case against Ms Arroyo.

"Yes, there are some of us who can corroborate some of the charges in the complaint." She said, however, that they would wait for the proper venue before airing their corroborative evidence.

Deles noted that while she, Soliman and Abad were members of the "national executive committee" of the President's election campaign, "none of us in the Hyatt 10 had any hint that there were any parallel operations."

A fourth member of the Hyatt 10, Mely Nicolas, stressed the same point. "We were squeaky clean. [When the Garci tapes came out,] we were all on denial [sic]."

Touch of humor

Then she added, referring to the high-profile women, including her sister Loida Nicolas-Lewis, who have taken out advertisements in the newspapers in support of President Arroyo: "I don't think many of them, including my sister, have read the tapes' [transcripts or] Mano Alcuaz's analysis [of election fraud]."

The forum was not without humor, of the black kind. At one point, responding to a question from the floor addressed to the Hyatt 10 members as "public figures," Abad replied: "Actually, we're looking for jobs at the moment. We're not public figures anymore. We're as private as can be." *With reports from TJ Burgonio and Christine O. Avendaño*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, August 31, 2005
22nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Col 1:1-8
Gospel: Luke 4:38-44

Leaving the synagogue, Jesus went to the house of Simon. His mother-in-law was suffering from high fever and they asked him to do something for her. Bending over her, he rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately she got up and waited on them.

At sunset, people suffering from many kinds of sickness were brought to Jesus. Laying his hands on each one, he healed them. Demons were driven out, howling as they departed from their victims, "You are the Son of God!" He rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, for they knew he was the Messiah.

Jesus left at daybreak and looked for a solitary place. People went out in search of him and, finding him, they tried to dissuade him from leaving. But he said, "I have to go to other towns to announce the good news of the kingdom of God. That is what I was sent to do." So Jesus continued to preach in the synagogues of the Jewish country.

Commentary

Jesus leaves the synagogue and goes to Simon's house and cures Simon's mother-in-law. She rises and waits on them (in gratitude surely). The imagery is that of raising up, of baptism into new life and ministry. She has been drawn into the circle of disciples—waiting at table on Jesus and the others. And the word spreads and so many come for healing. So many of us are still in need of healing, of wholeness, of release from debilitating sin, self-absorption and the effects that our actions and others have on all of us. Jesus lays hands on each of them (as in confirmation) and those who 'know' him because of their illness and sin are told to be silent. These are not acts of faith, but fear and distance from Jesus. And then Jesus retreats to a deserted place to pray, to be alone with his Father. And then they find him and he is off again to the towns, synagogues and houses to do his work on earth. This will be the pattern of his life. It should be ours: to preach the good news to the poor, to comfort, heal, bind the sick, to speak the truth to those who suffer from doing evil, or are the victims of sin and to pray, seeking strength from our God—but to always come back to those who are lost and in need. This is what we are sent to do as well.

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Corrections

IN THE AUG. 19 issue, a story on Page A3—"GMA extols Pinay chef in White House"—misstated the year White House executive chef Cristeta Comerford began studying at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City. The year was 1979—not 1971.

* * *

IN THE AUG. 28 issue, Ruben Nepales' "Only in Hollywood" column in the Entertainment Section on Page A3-1—"Andrew Cunanan the musical, a Pinay Yoko Ono on Broadway"—misstated the location of La Jolla Playhouse. It is in San Diego—not Orange County.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses: glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent, pending the appointment of a new readers' advocate, to Isagani Yambot, publisher, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address: iyambot@inquirer.com.ph.

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Dyspepsia is a recurring discomfort in the chest and stomach region. Aside from **bloating, gas** and **stomach pain,** other symptoms include **heavy stomach, fullness** and **nausea.**

Dyspeptic symptoms usually appear when stomach movement slows and food does not empty from the stomach. These symptoms often follow meals, but can occur anytime.

Treatment
Frequent remedies taken for dyspepsia-like symptoms are drinks like tea, soft drinks or antacids. These remedies may relieve some, but not all of the symptoms of dyspepsia.

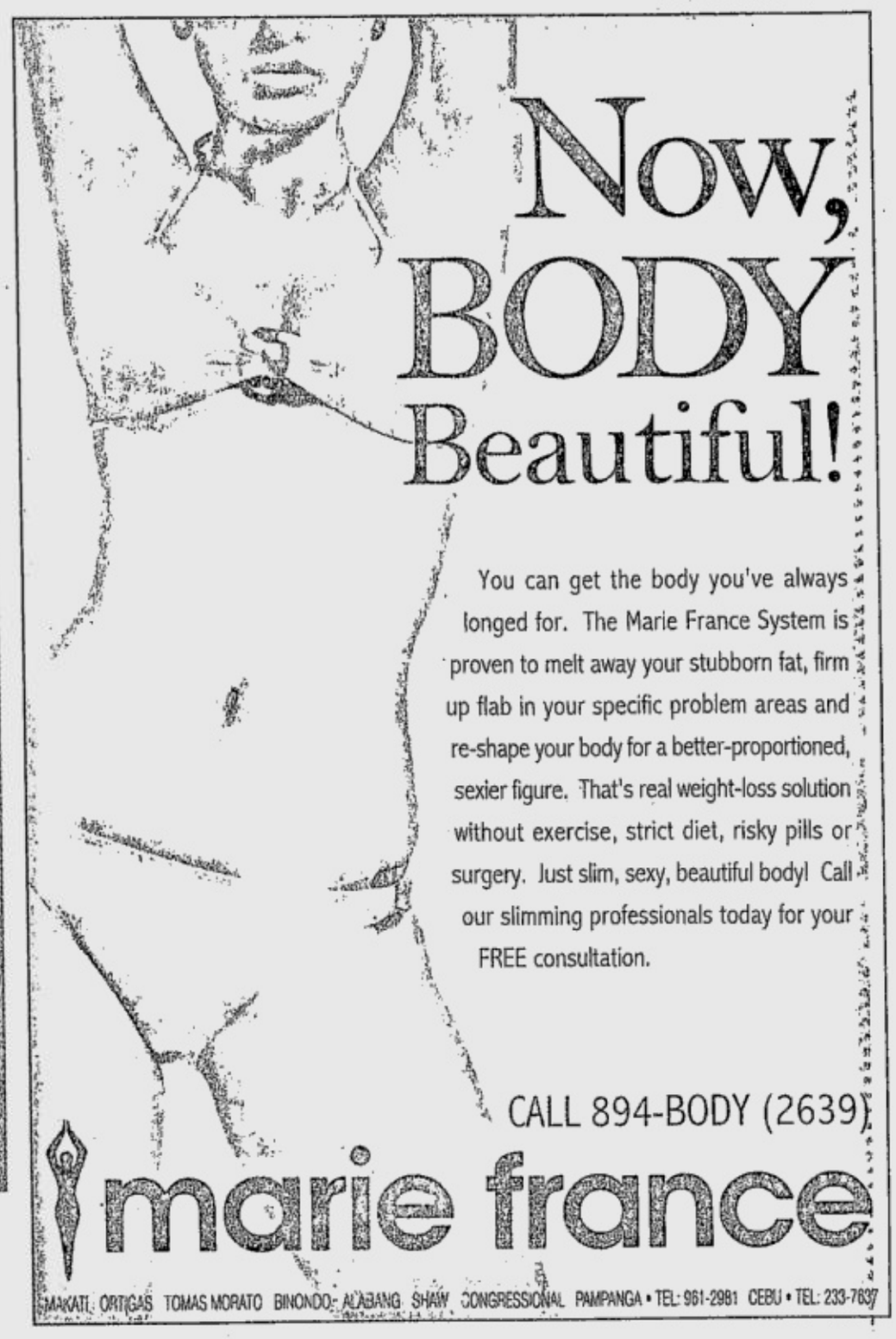
Another class of medication, called prokinetics, more directly addresses the full range of dyspeptic symptoms by restoring proper stomach movement. The most widely used prokinetic in the Philippines is Domperidone, which is available in 10mg tablet form.

See Your Doctor
If your symptoms persist, it is best to see your doctor. A Philippine Society of Gastroenterology (PSG) doctor will recommend the right treatment for dyspepsia.

By **Dr. Ramon E. Carpio**
Chairman, Council on Dyspepsia
Philippine Society of Gastroenterology

Sa Dyspepsia,

If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.



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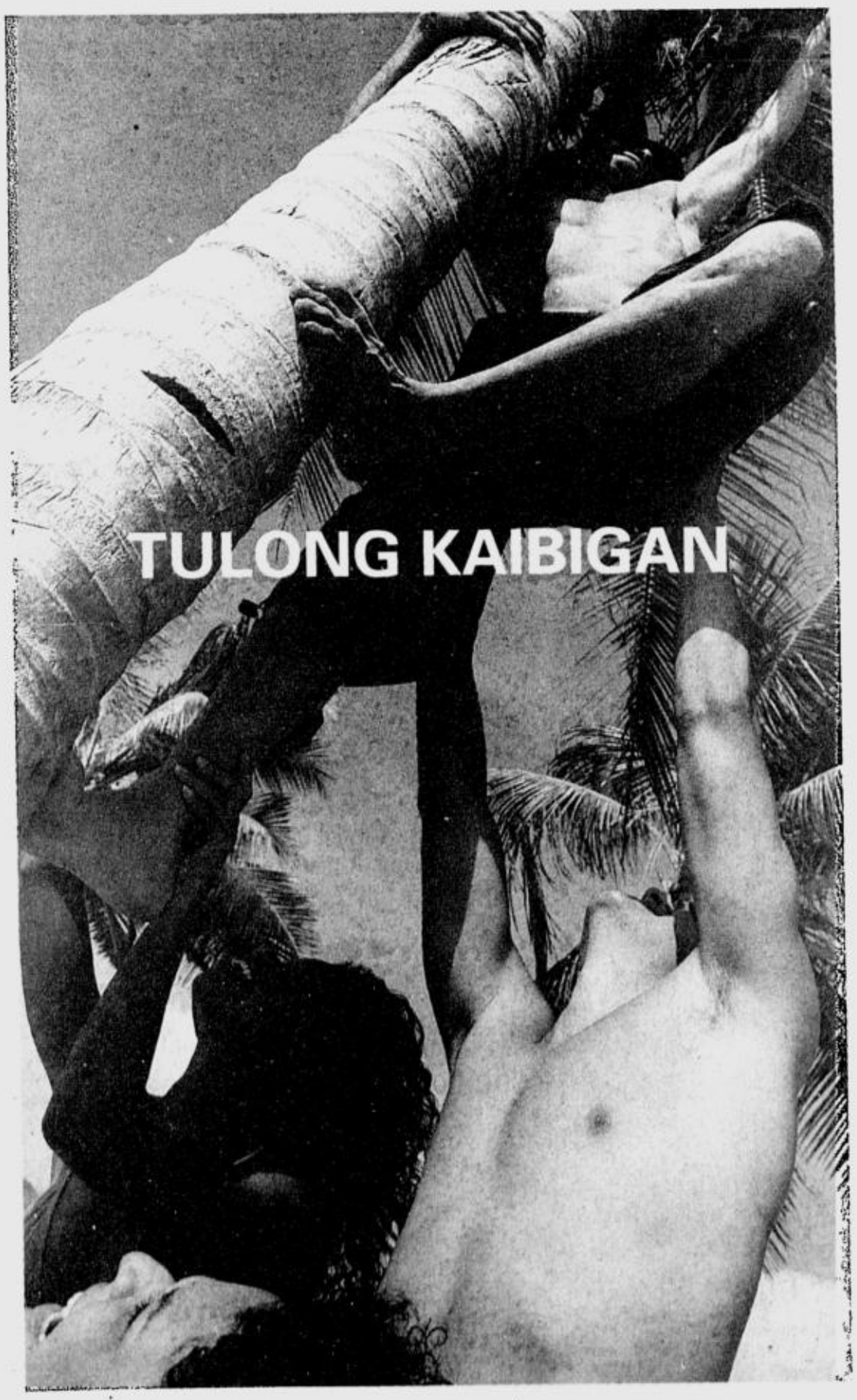

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With no visa, Garci can't be in US, says NBI

By Margaux C. Ortiz

WANTED former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano cannot be in the United States because he does not have a US visa.

International Police (Interpol) chief in the Philippines Ricardo Diaz of the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday said a check with the US Embassy showed no visa had been issued to Garcillano between 1993 and 2005.

Diaz said that even if Garcillano had been issued a US visa before 1993, "[it] would have expired by now."

"The multiple entry indefinite visa to the US was phased out in the 1980s, requiring visas to be renewed every 10 years," Diaz said.

He said US policy became stricter after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, changing the renewal requirement to every five years.

"It would have been impossible for Garcillano to leave the Philippines for the US without a visa," Diaz said.

Garcillano was believed to have fled the Philippines for Singapore.

Earlier, NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said Garcillano might have left Singapore for Malaysia after he was reportedly sighted in Labuan, Malaysia, on Aug. 3.

Wycoco said the NBI's Zamboanga District Office had informed him the former Commission on Elections official was seen at the Club Sheraton in Labuan.

He said the bureau asked the Malaysian police to look for the ex-elections official after Sabah Police Commissioner Datok Mangsor Ismail reportedly expressed willingness to assist the NBI and the Philippine National Police in looking for Garcillano.

NBI spokesperson Auralyn Pascual said the bureau also asked Interpol for help in hunting Garcillano, who went into hiding after wiretapped conversations between himself and President Macapagal-Arroyo suggesting fraud in the 2004 elections came to light in June.

Pascual said that because the Philippines did not have extradition treaties with Singapore and Malaysia, the NBI asked Interpol to include Garcillano in its "red notice" or list of wanted persons.

Earlier, Pascual clarified that no criminal charges had been filed against Garcillano and the administrative warrant issued by Congress only required him to attend the committee hearings on the "Hello Garci" wiretaps.

The Philippines has extradition treaties with the United States, Australia, Indonesia, Canada, Thailand, Switzerland, Hong Kong and Micronesia.

Subic needs new blood — Gordon

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUBIC Bay Metropolitan Authority needs new blood, this is according to Sen. Richard Gordon, who has openly criticized the agency's deterioration.

Gordon, who was the first SBMA chair, converted the former US base into a dollar-earning economic zone. He had envisioned Subic to be a free port like Hong Kong but after he left, there were reportedly questionable importation of vehicles and cigarettes.

"When you lose blood, you need new blood – young blood," Gordon said yesterday during the Bulong Pulungan forum at the Westin Philippines Plaza Hotel.

He was referring to Armand Arreza, who was named the replacement of Alfredo Antonio as SBMA administrator. Gordon was all praises for Arreza, although the senator had recommended Inky Reyes for the job.

Arreza had excellent credentials and was finance director when Gordon was SBMA head.

"I would recommend him any time of the day. Any one of the people who worked in Subic can handle the job," he said.

According to INQUIRER sources, it was Arreza's appointment which made Francisco Licuanan III resign as SBMA chair effective today.

Arreza is a cousin of Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, one of the President's most vocal defenders in Congress.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said Licuanan's resignation showed that the President was held hostage by the impeachment issue because she had agreed to dilute Licuanan's powers.

Arroyo also claimed that some parties wanted control of Subic and were using the impeachment issue to get what they want.

In an ambush interview, Gordon denied that his goal was to regain control of the SBMA and that he was using the impeachment to do this. He also revealed that Licuanan wanted to appoint his own man.

"Licuanan wanted his own man, (Roberto) Garcia of Ramcar. [But] Ramcar lost money. There were other issues." Gordon said, stressing that he wasn't to blame for Licuanan's resignation.

"Why is everyone putting the blame on me? He (Licuanan) is a grown man. When I was secretary of tourism, I was promised that I would have the lay of the land. They put (Dean) Barbers in PTA; I didn't approve. But I stayed and tourism grew," Gordon said.

Erap to take stand

By Nelson F. Flores

FORMER President Joseph Estrada will personally defend his request for bail in connection with the plunder and perjury cases filed against him.

Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag told the Sandiganbayan Special Division in a five-page manifestation on Friday his client would take the witness stand in the next few days.

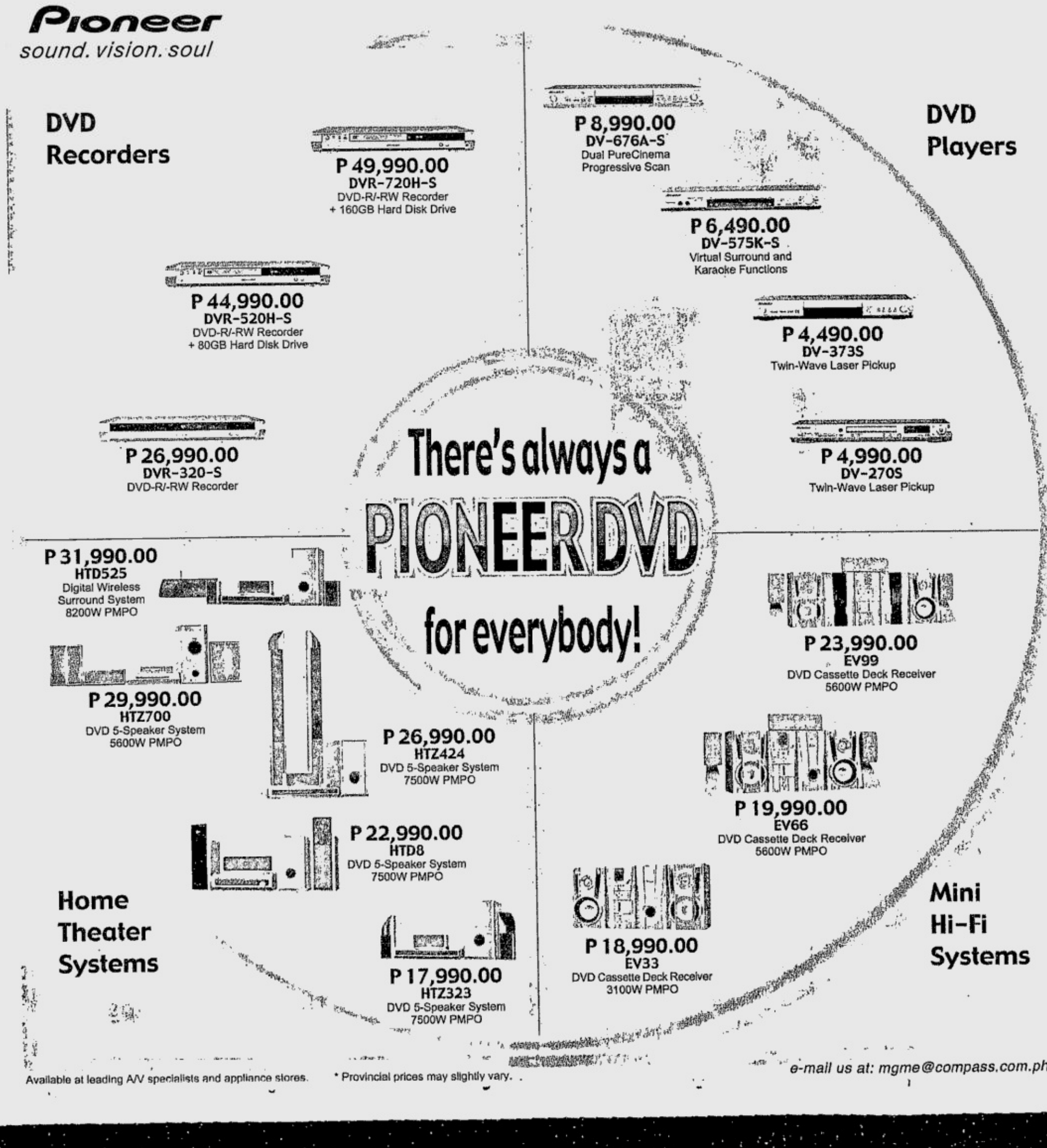
"In the legal team meeting the other day, it was decided to call the principal accused to the witness stand on the bail issue, on a date and time to be stipulated on, given the preparation required, when we also beg leave to respond orally to the (prosecution's) opposition to the bail motion," Saguisag said.

Jose Flaminiano, another member of Estrada's defense team, said there was no danger of Estrada jumping bail or fleeing the country as evidenced by past instances when he was allowed out of detention.

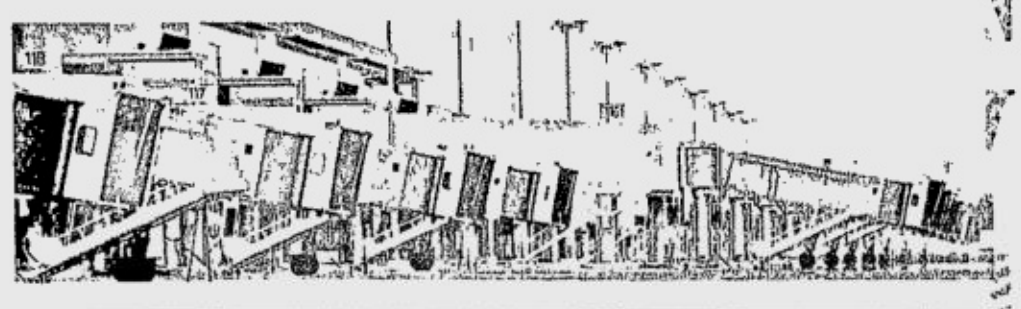
He said granting Estrada bail would give the latter every opportunity to defend himself from the charges he is facing.

Flaminiano also said the motion for bail would seek Estrada's release on recognizance and would not touch on the merits of the case.

Recognizance is the process where an accused is released to the custody of someone of high moral authority in the community.



Palace ignores Piatco deal



NAIA Terminal 3 aero bridges. ROGER MARGALLO

From page A1

Terminal 3 within the next four to seven months.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Manila Hotel Corp.'s $230-million buyout of the stake of foreign investors led by German airport operator Fraport AG in Piatco was "a private transaction" that had no bearing on the government's plan to operate the world-class terminal.

"We never had the occasion to see the paper or whatever agreement they have. Government will just continue what it is doing, ironing out legal impediments for us to be able to open the airport," Ermita said at a press briefing.

Ermita revealed that the government was set to sign an agreement with Naia 3 contractor, Takenaka Corp. of Japan, for the completion of the terminal, which was mothballed after the Supreme Court voided Piatco's build-operate-transfer contract in 2003 for being disadvantageous to the government, among other reasons.

Until the government gets hold of the contract between Manila Hotel and Piatco's foreign shareholders—Fraport, SB Airport Investments and Sojiz Corp. of Japan—"there is not much we can say" about the deal, according to Ermita.

The government is sticking to its original plan to open the terminal and bid it out to raise money to compensate Piatco. Ermita said the government was looking to open the airport, possibly at less than full capacity, by December or a few months after.

Because the Supreme Court nullified the contracts of Piatco to operate Naia 3, Piatco cannot run the terminal.

In a hurry to settle

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the government would not likely oppose the deal between Manila Hotel and the foreign investors in Piatco if it meant resolving the long-drawn-out legal battle.

"I suppose that if the government will not feel shortchanged ... I don't think the government would oppose this. In truth and in fact, the government is in a hurry to have this thing settled," he said in an interview.

Gonzalez said the government, through the Office of the solicitor general, should get "some sort of a clearance" from the Supreme Court to settle the dispute.

"Maybe some kind of a pleading can be filed by the solicitor general," Gonzalez said as he described the deal between Fraport and the Manila Hotel Corp. as a "very good development."

Asked whether Fraport or Manila Hotel had sought Malacañang or the DOJ's legal opinion on the deal, Gonzalez replied: "I don't know. Maybe it's possible that Manila Hotel made some backroom channeling. This is clearly a business transaction."

Start negotiations

Manila Hotel president Jose D. Lina Jr. said that Piatco, now a 60-40 venture between Manila Hotel and the Cheng family following the buyout of foreign shareholders, was hoping to start negotiations with the government to regain control of Naia 3.

"We (Manila Hotel) will tell the government that they don't have to expropriate the property and spend money that it does not have. We believe we can sit down with them and come up with a solution that is mutually beneficial to both parties," Lina said.

With the withdrawal of Piatco's foreign partners, Lina, a former interior secretary in the Arroyo administration, is hopeful that the government will be more open to reaching a compromise with a 100-percent Filipino-owned Piatco.

GSIS factor

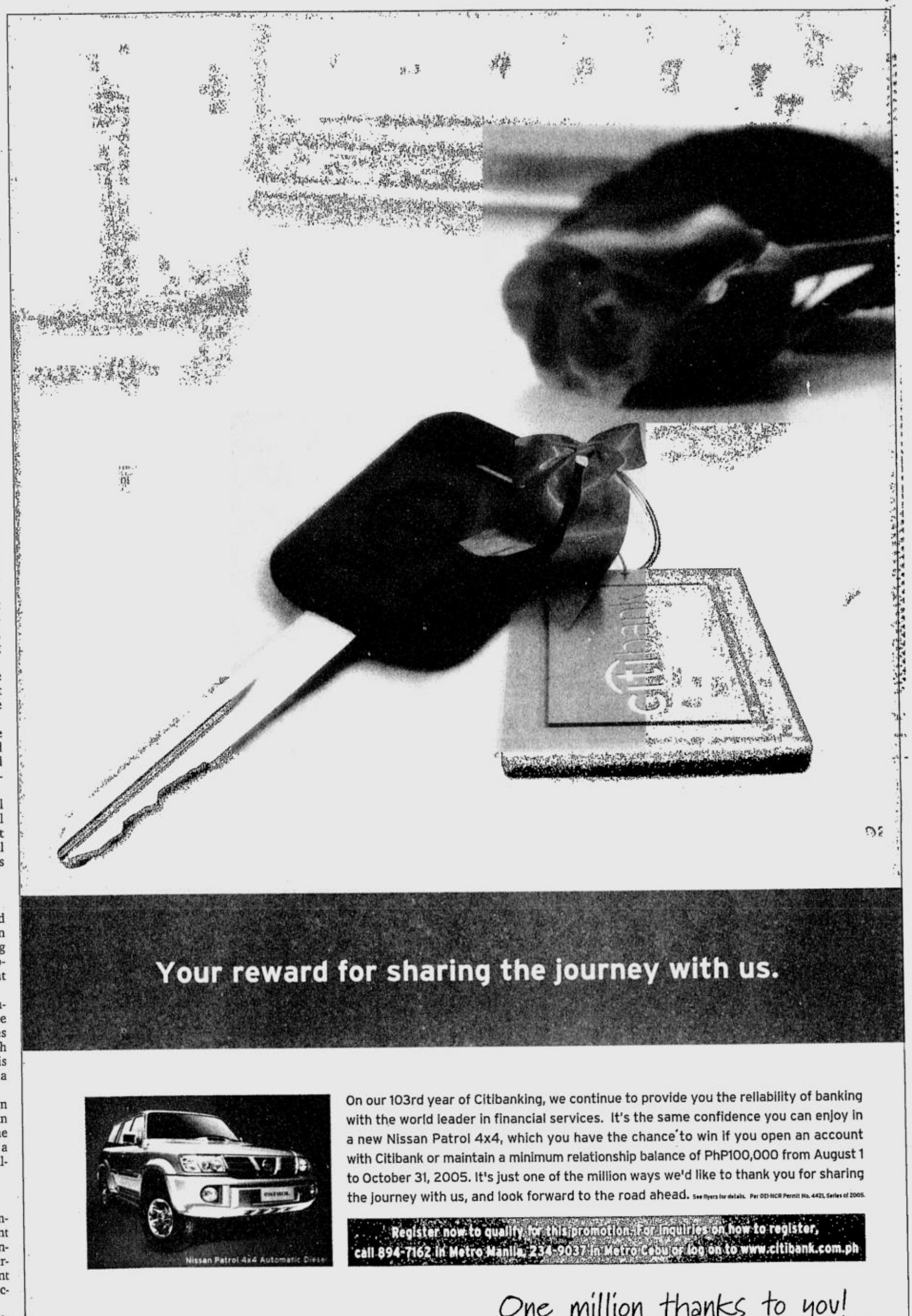
One key factor working in favor of an immediate settlement between the government and Piatco is the Government Service and Insurance System, which has retained a 15-percent stake in Manila Hotel. GSIS president Winston Garcia, who is a Manila Hotel director, did not return the INQUIRER's calls.

Lina said that the buyout by the Manila Hotel would be financed by foreign financial institutions and that the GSIS would not extend a special loan to carry out the deal.

Naia 3's opening, however, has been stalled because the government has been having difficulty expropriating the property not only due to the lack of funds but also due to the dispute on how much compensation it should pay Piatco.

Piatco has asked an arbitration court in Singapore to order the Philippine government to compensate the company $525 million for its investment in Naia 3.

Fraport, for its part, filed an arbitration case in the World Bank's International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes and sought reimbursement of its $425 million investment in Naia 3. It also sued the government for $900 million.



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2005

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Katrina pummels Gulf Coast; 54 dead

NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana—Rescue crews worked frantically Tuesday to save hundreds of people trapped by floodwaters from Hurricane Katrina, which devastated the US Gulf Coast states of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama and reportedly left dozens of people dead.

The massive storm, one of the most powerful ever to hit the United States, killed at least 54 people in Mississippi, a local newspaper reported, and the death toll was expected to rise sharply from Gulf Coast towns and cities pounded by a day of ferocious winds and blinding rain.

"We've got a massive search-and-rescue situation going on," Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco said after Katrina slammed into this low-lying city of 1.4 million people, leaving entire neighborhoods under water. "We've pulled literally hundreds of people out of the waters.

"We believe there are hundreds more out there," she added. "We've got boats moving through neighborhoods. We've got hundreds and hundreds of houses inundated with water in eastern New Orleans."

There have been only three confirmed fatalities in New Orleans—elderly nursing home residents who died while being evacuated—but Mayor Ray Nagin, who ordered a mandatory evacuation of the city Sunday, told WWLTV several bodies had been seen "floating in the water."

The Clarion-Ledger based in Jackson, Mississippi, reported that at least 54 people had been killed in the state, which lies to the east of New Orleans and appears to have borne the brunt of the storm.

The newspaper quoted a spokesperson for local emergency services as saying 30 deaths occurred in a single apartment complex in the Gulf coast city of Biloxi where tenants were drowned or crushed by debris.

Falling trees accounted for some of the other two dozen deaths across the state, it said.

Katrina was blamed for another seven deaths when it battered Florida last week.

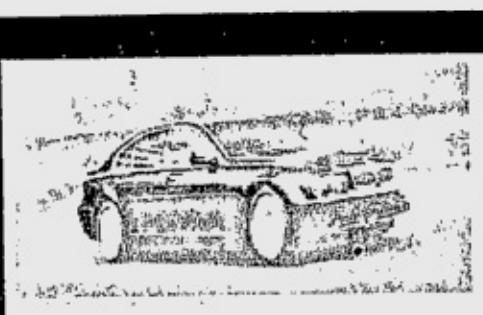
Damage was estimated to be in the billions of dollars along the Gulf Coast, making Katrina among the most costly hurricanes in US history.

The hurricane virtually shut down crude production in the Gulf of Mexico, at one point sending oil prices surging to record highs.

Several airports in the southern United States were closed on Monday because of the hurricane, and air travelers have been warned of widespread delays and cancellations this week as the storm heads northward to Canada.

Packing winds of 240 km per hour, the storm made landfall over Louisiana early Monday at category four—the second-highest level on the Saffir-Simpson hurricane intensity scale, and gradually lost strength as it moved inland.

Downgraded late Monday to a tropical storm with winds of 95 km per hour, Katrina early Tuesday was pushing its way through northern Mississippi, drenching the countryside as far as the Carolinas. *AFP*



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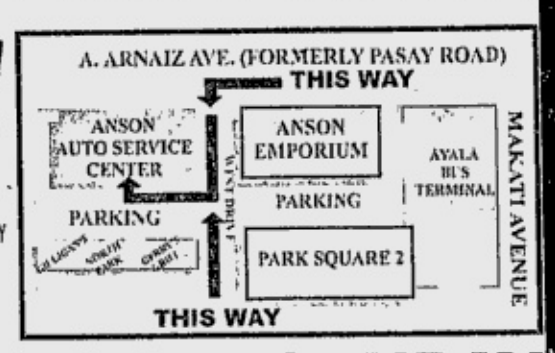

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Hurricane insurance claims may hit $26B

NEW YORK—The property and casualty insurance industry, hit hard last year when four separate hurricanes slammed into Florida, now faces as much as $26 billion in claims from Hurricane Katrina's devastating sweep through Louisiana and neighboring US Gulf Coast states, according to preliminary risk assessments.

AIR Worldwide Corp., a risk modeling firm based in Boston, said late Monday that insured losses could range from $12 billion to $26 billion.

At the high end, that would make Katrina more expensive than the previous record-setting storm, Hurricane Andrew, which caused some $21 billion in insured losses in 1992 to property in Florida and along the Gulf Coast.

Another risk modeling firm, Eqecat Inc., which is based in Oakland, California, initially estimated damages from Katrina at up to $30 billion, but it lowered its projections twice after the storm struck east of populous New Orleans and was quickly downgraded as it moved inland from a Category 4 hurricane to a Category 2 storm. Late Monday, Eqecat's estimate for damage to homes, businesses, autos and trucks ranged from $9 billion to $16 billion.

Eqecat spokesperson Thomas Larsen said the storm's move eastward reduced some of the potential for losses in the New Orleans area. At the same time, he said, "it has raised concerns about Biloxi and Gulfport," both in Mississippi, as well as other Gulf Coast cities to the east.

The estimates, which Larsen emphasized were preliminary, do not include possible damage to oil drilling platforms and other oil operations in the Gulf, which produces and refines a significant amount of US fuel.

Larsen noted that Hurricane Ivan last September caused serious damage to some oil rigs and added: "Katrina is to the west of Hurricane Ivan's path, in an area more densely populated with oil platforms."

There were no immediate estimates of damage to oil operations, although Royal Dutch Shell PLC said on its Web site that two of its drilling rigs equipped with tracking devices had "drifted off location."

AIR Worldwide attributed its higher estimate to Katrina's size, noting that "hurricane-strength winds extended more than 195 km from the center of the storm and tropical storm-strength winds extended as much as 370 km from the center."

Last year, the four separate hurricanes that slammed Florida and other East Coast states cost insurers nearly $23 billion. The most devastating, Hurricane Charley, racked up insured losses of $7.5 billion last August. *AP*

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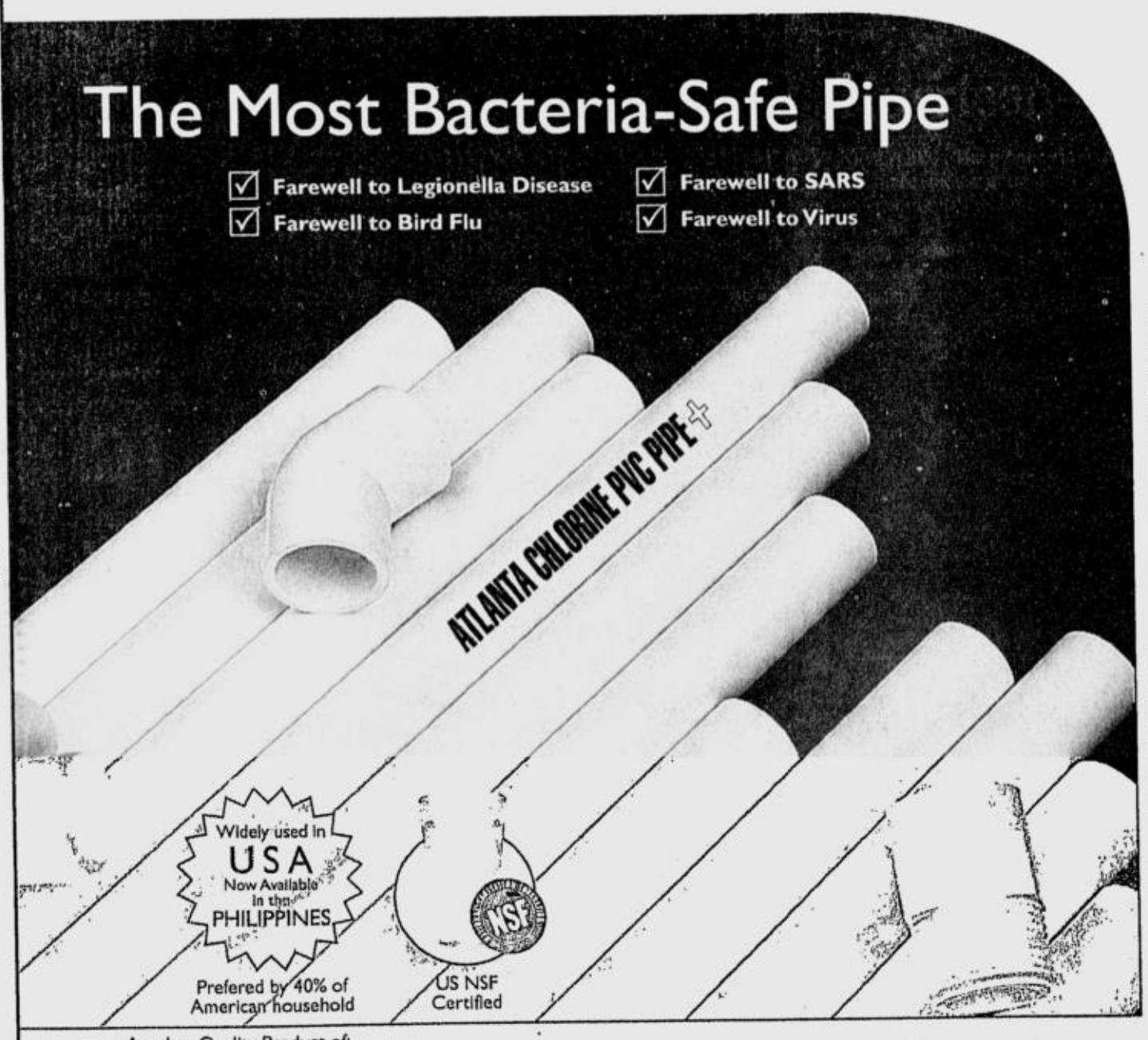

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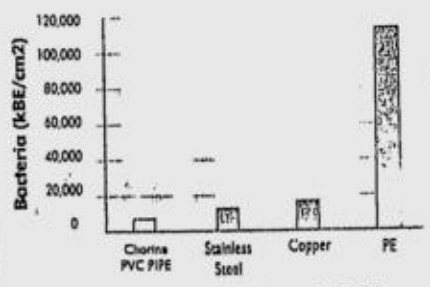
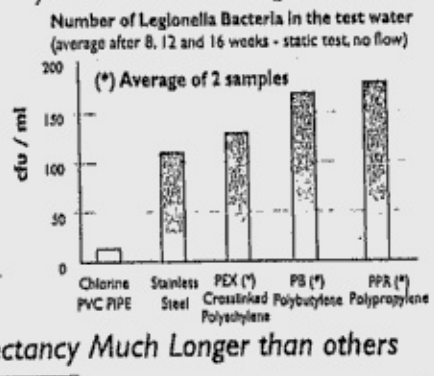
Bacterial growth in water piping at 120 days



B) Health Concerns / Legionella Proof

Number of Legionella Bacteria in the test water (average after 8, 12 and 16 weeks - static test, no flow)



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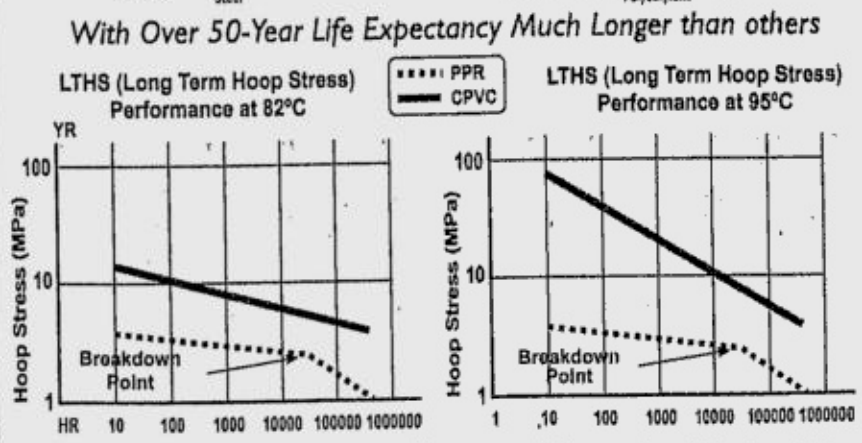

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Sharon eyes more West Bank pullouts

JERUSALEM—Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Monday that Israel would not hold onto all of its West Bank settlements, a week after overseeing the historic pullout of Jewish settlers from the Gaza Strip.

Sharon, in an interview with Channel 10 private television, said the final map of settlements that Israel would retain would not be presented until final status negotiations with the Palestinians.

But he added that it would not include all of the 130 enclaves which are dotted across the territory.

"Not all the communities that exist today in Judea and Samaria (West Bank) will stay," he said.

"The final map will be presented toward the final stage of negotiations," he said. "The large settlement blocs will be in our hands with security areas. This can only come in the last stages."

Israel completed its historic evacuation of Jewish settlers from the Gaza Strip and four small West Bank settlements last Tuesday, in the Jewish state's first withdrawal from parts of the occupied territories.

Sharon has consistently denied any further evacuation plans, while arguing that the pullout from Gaza would enable Israel to cement its control over large West Bank settlement blocs.

Few observers believe Sharon will risk further endangering his standing with his main right-wing governing Likud party by embarking on any more unilateral pullouts, especially as he faces a potential leadership challenge from his arch-rival and former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. *AFP*

Sunnis urge changes in Iraq charter

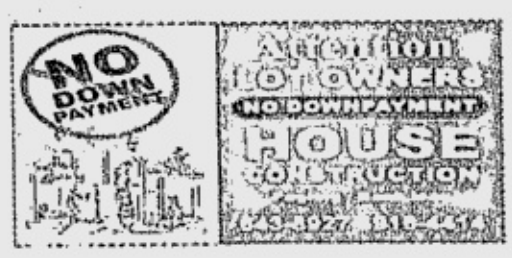
BAGHDAD—One of Iraq's biggest Arab Sunni parties said on Monday that it might back the country's constitution, but it urged changes to a text agreed by the Shiite-dominated parliament.

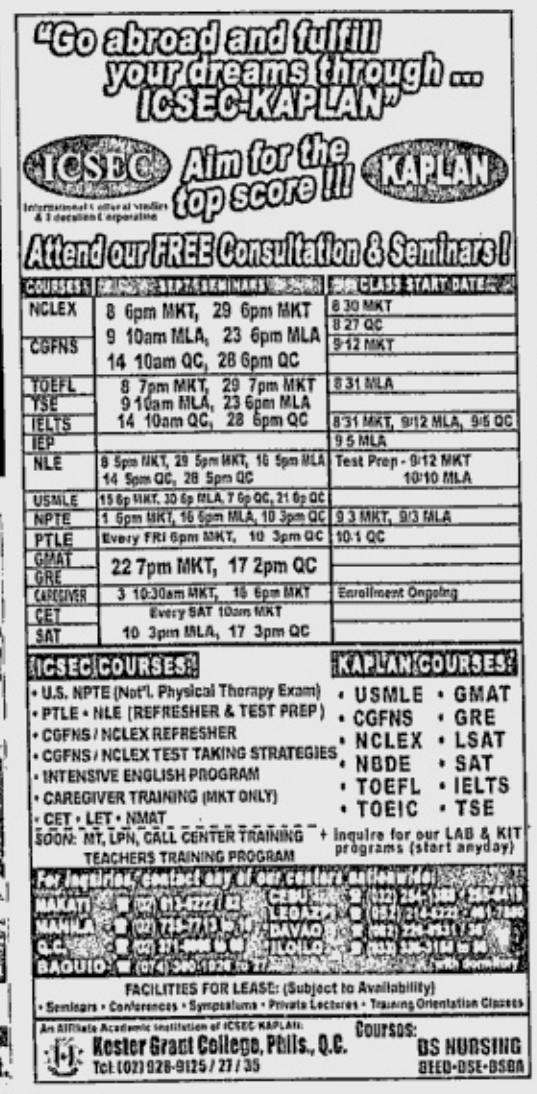
US President George W. Bush hailed the draft as a breakthrough but predicted an October referendum on the document would spark "atrocities" after minority Sunnis, whose community is the seat of the insurgency, rejected the text.

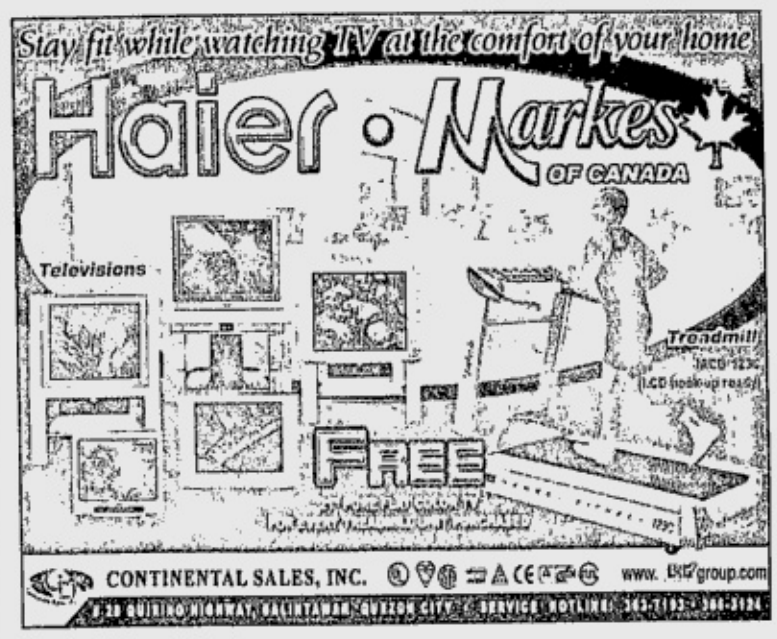
But the Iraqi Islamic Party, seen as moderate Islamist and opposed to violence, said on Monday there was still room for negotiation on the constitution.

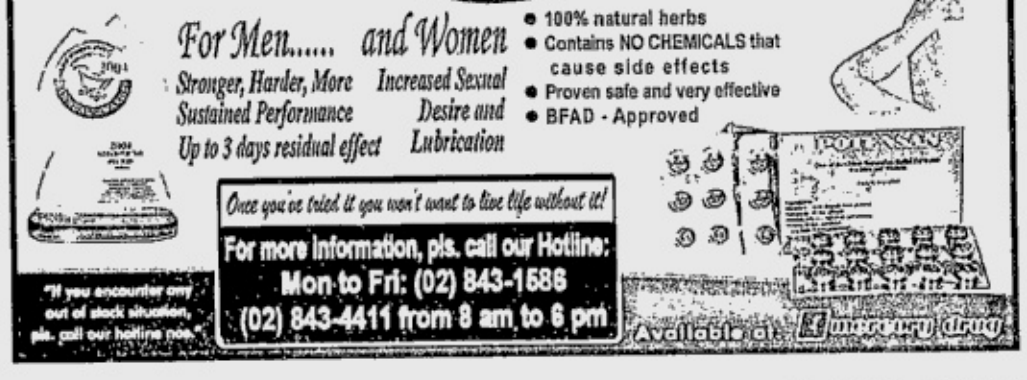
"We have not signed the constitution and we still have the time starting from now until the referendum comes," party spokesperson Tareq al-Hashemi told a news conference. "We might say yes to the constitution if the disputed points are resolved."

The text read to parliament failed to overcome objections by Sunnis. *Reuters*









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Negotiations start on crucial UN document

UNITED NATIONS—With world leaders arriving for a UN summit in just over two weeks, negotiations finally got under way on the most contentious issues in the document they're supposed to adopt to fight global poverty and bring the United Nations into the 21st century.

At a four-hour closed-door meeting on Monday, ambassadors from 32 countries leading the final negotiations focused on two issues which have divided UN members—the fight against terrorism and a new Peacebuilding Commission to help countries emerging from conflict. On Tuesday morning, they will tackle another divisive issue, the creation of a new Human Rights Council.

General Assembly President Jean Ping, who is shepherding the final document, has set a very tight timetable: He wants negotiations completed on Friday and the document adopted on Sept. 6 so it can be translated into the six official UN languages before the leaders arrive.

Ping has urged the negotiators to focus on seven difficult issues: terrorism; a new Human Rights Council to replace the discredited Human Rights Commission; the Peacebuilding Commission; protecting civilians against genocide; overhauling UN management; and actions to fight poverty and promote development.

But the entire 39-page text can be amended, and all 191 UN member states can take part in the negotiations if they have specific proposals, Ping said.

After Monday's meeting, US Ambassador John Bolton said he was "very happy" that nation-to-nation negotiations were finally under way—and that numerous amendments were now on the table from the United States as well as Pakistan, Egypt, the European Union and South American and African nations on two issues.

As a follow-up, Ping immediately set up two small groups which started discussions Monday night on the amendments. The aim is to have these groups negotiate compromise language on terrorism and the Peacebuilding Commission.

"There are a lot of different ideas," Bolton said. "We have a lot of work to do... But I think this is going to be an open, transparent process, and we'll work as late as we need to and see if we can come up with a strong outcome document."

Britain's UN Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry said he emerged from the meeting "more optimistic" than when he entered "because I thought people were serious. People were putting forward sensible amendments. There's a debate engaged."

The stakes are high, as the Sept. 14-16 summit—marking the 60th anniversary of the United Nations—is expected to be the largest gathering of world leaders in history. Some 175 presidents, prime ministers and monarchs have accepted Secretary General Kofi Annan's invitation to come to UN headquarters.

"If this summit is going to mean something," said South Africa's UN Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo, "it will have to say something on terrorism in very simple, clear, forward ways. It will have to say something on human rights, and it will have to say something on development, on peacebuilding."

Kumalo was optimistic that the differences can be bridged.

"Don't worry," he told reporters. "We'll get there. We have no alternative."

What will be in the final document, however, remains to be seen.

Bolton sent a letter to all UN ambassadors just before the closed-door meeting saying "a clear, strong declaration on terrorism will bolster our common efforts to preserve peace and security." *AP*

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Iran claims new nuke breakthrough

TEHRAN—Iran announced Monday it has made another breakthrough in its controversial nuclear program by successfully using biotechnology to extract purer uranium from its mines.

A report on state television said researchers from Iran's Atomic Energy Organization had mastered the technique of employing microbes to purify uranium ore in mines prior to mining.

It said "using biotechnology substantially decreases the cost, increases optimization and prevents environmental contamination" in the process that leads to the production of yellowcake, or concentrated uranium oxide.

The report, quoting a senior researcher, said the microbes were "successfully used in experimental stages" in central Iran's uranium mines. "This bacteria is very valuable" and makes the production of yellowcake "100 to 200 times cheaper," he said.

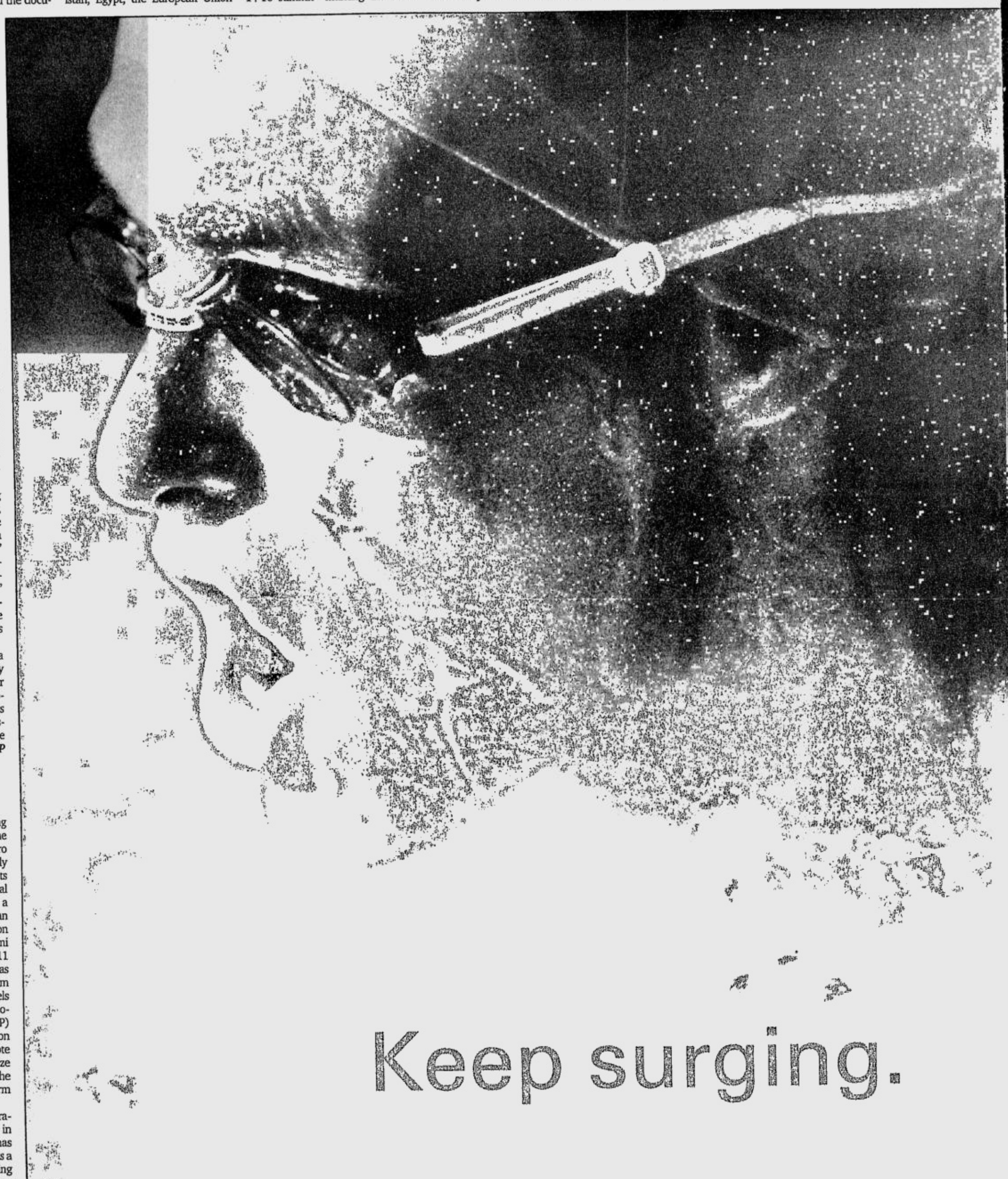
Yellowcake is a part of the early stages of the nuclear fuel cycle—a process that Iran insists it only wants to master so it can generate electricity. *AFP*

Japan LDP top in poll

TOKYO—The ruling party of Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi had nearly twice the support of its main opposition rival as campaigning for a general election began on Tuesday, an opinion poll showed. Koizumi called the Sept. 11 election, which he has said is a referendum on reform, after rebels in his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) joined the opposition this month to vote down bills to privatize the postal system, the core of his reform agenda.

The unusually dramatic campaign, in which Koizumi has been cast by media as a feudal lord sending "assassins" to stand as candidates against "traitors" from his own party, has prompted strong interest among Japan's usually apathetic voters.

The poll published on Tuesday by the Tokyo Shimbun, covering 3,600 voters across the nation, found 43.4 percent intend to vote for the LDP in single-seat districts, roughly the same percentage as those who actually did vote for the party in the last general election in 2003. *Reuters*



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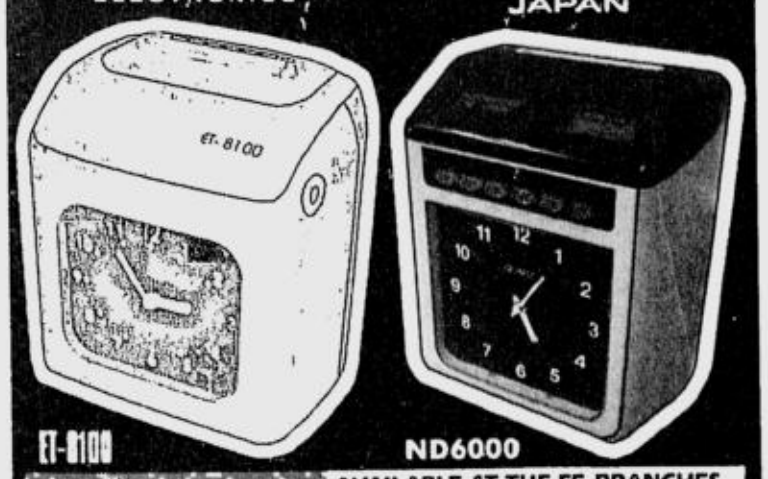

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Jackson urges US to denounce assassination call

CARACAS—The Rev. Jesse Jackson urged the US government to strongly condemn a televised call to assassinate Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, saying Washington needs to cool down the rhetoric against a country that is a key oil supplier.

Chavez said Monday after meeting Jackson that he is willing to cooperate with the United States against drug trafficking as long as its agents aren't involved in spying, and that Venezuela plans to begin providing oil directly to poor US communities.

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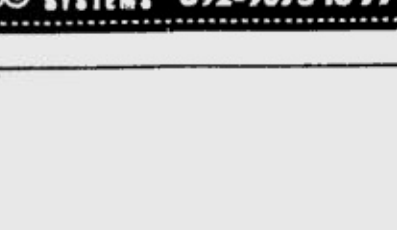
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The American civil rights leader said he hoped the talks would help ease tensions aggravated last week by conservative religious broadcaster Pat Robertson's suggestion that Chavez ought to be killed.

"We must make it clear that talk of isolating Venezuela, talk of assassinating its leader, this is unacceptable, and it must be denounced roundly by our president and by our secretary of state," Jackson told The Associated Press in an interview shortly before the meeting.

"The US and Venezuelan leadership must have a detente on rhetoric," Jackson told the AP. "We need to have a cooling down of divisive rhetoric."

Chavez, a close ally of Cuban leader Fidel Castro who frequently criticizes what he calls US domination of Latin America, has said his government could ask the United States to extradite Robertson to Venezuela.

US State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack said Monday in Washington that Venezuela does not appear to have a sound legal basis for seeking his extradition.

Robertson called for Chavez's assassination on his TV show "The 700 Club" a week ago, saying the United States should "take him out" because the Venezuelan leader poses a danger to the region. Robertson, founder of the Christian Coalition of America and a supporter of Bush's reelection bid, later apologized.

Chavez said it's important to note that minutes before "that gentleman made his hair-raising call for the US government to kill me," Robertson's program showed a segment including comments by "some terrorists," including a leader in a short-lived 2002 coup "who tried to kill me that day."

He said Venezuela hopes the United States will extradite two others who were interviewed on charges of involvement in bombings that rocked the Spanish Embassy and Colombian Consulate in Caracas in 2003, injuring four. Chavez apparently was referring to two ex-National Guard officers who requested asylum in Miami last year and are being held by US authorities.

Chavez has regularly accused the US government of plotting to overthrow him and has said it backed the 2002 coup. US officials have strongly denied it, even as they have made clear they are concerned about his ties with Castro and what opponents call the Venezuelan leader's authoritarian tendencies. *AP*

Lebanon nabs former security chiefs

BEIRUT—Lebanon on Tuesday arrested three former pro-Syrian security chiefs over the murder of ex-Premier Rafiq Hariri, the first major development in the probe six months after the attack that sent shockwaves through the nation.

The head of the presidential guard Mustafa Hamdan has also turned himself in to UN investigators after Lebanon issued an arrest warrant against him, security sources said.

The three arrested men—former general security chief Jamil al-Sayed, ex-military intelligence boss Raymond Azar and former internal security head Ali al-Hage—were also brought before the UN commission, a security source said.

Several other people were also arrested by Lebanese police and a warrant has been issued for former pro-Damascus minister and MP Nasser Qandil, the source said.

They are the first major arrests in the probe into the February killing of Hariri, whose death in a massive Beirut bomb blast plunged Lebanon into turmoil and increased the pressure on Syria to pull out its troops in April.

Damascus has come under mounting international criticism over a failure to cooperate with the UN probe headed by German prosecutor Detlev Mehlis.

The assassination of the five-time billionaire prime minister was blamed by many in Lebanon on longtime powerbroker Syria and its allies in the Lebanese government at the time.

Hamdan, who was appointed by Damascus protégé President Emile Lahoud shortly after he took office in 1998, was in June questioned as a suspect and his office and house searched by the UN team investigating the murder.

Lahoud himself has long denied allegations of complicity in the assassination and resisted pressure to stand down.

Last week, the UN Security Council called on Syria to fully cooperate after officials complained that requests for documents and interviews had been left unanswered, with the United States calling Damascus' stance "unacceptable." *AFP*

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OPINION

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Self-sacrifice

BLAST and counter-blast were the order of the day yesterday. Four former Cabinet secretaries, led by Florencio Abad and Corazon Soliman, held a press conference under the auspices of the Black & White Movement, in what was widely expected to result in explosive revelations against President Macapagal-Arroyo. But instead of exploding dynamite, the former Cabinet officials ended up waving sparklers. No facts were revealed, no documents shown. Only allegations were made, and these were of the kind that could be immediately denied by loyal members of the Cabinet, without the public really knowing who were telling the truth.

EDITORIAL

The allegation that received the most attention was Soliman's revelation that she had overheard the President discussing the filing by Marcos lawyer Oliver Lozano of an impeachment complaint and allegedly telling Political Adviser Gabby Claudio to find someone in Congress to endorse it. Claudio supposedly said he'd ask Alagad Party-list Rep. Rodante Marcoleta to do it.

The administration's reaction was swift, and it came from Claudio himself, who emphatically denied that the conversation ever took place. Marcoleta, too, took to the airwaves and denied having been approached by Claudio with such a request.

Once more the public has been reduced to being the spectator in a she-said-he-said argument. Arguments of this sort can only lead to a hardening of preconceived notions on the part of the opponents and supporters of the President. A battle for credibility between two camps that are held in disrepute can only produce noise, not illumination.

The fresh revelations made by the former Cabinet members were obviously timed to influence the proceedings in the committee on justice of the House of Representatives. However, the nature of the revelations, which consisted of hearsay followed by timid rhetorical questions, has itself become an issue.

When the so-called "Hyatt 10" (which Palace officials now contemptuously calls the "Hyatt 4") left the administration and called publicly on the President to resign, they took upon themselves a leadership role at least within civil society. And yet, what kind of leadership have they displayed?

It has been bandied about that the former officials have been loath to reveal documentary evidence because they don't want to give the administration the chance to destroy the original documents. That makes tactical sense. It has also been suggested that these former officials, who are still smarting from the Supreme Court's threat to cite former Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima for contempt, are concerned with shielding themselves legally. That makes sense, too. But it also seriously erodes their credibility as either voices of conscience or symbols of integrity.

The leader who is unwilling to sacrifice everything—from personal comfort to reputation—is merely a politician. The Hyatt 10 have proclaimed themselves nonpoliticians, and non-traditionalists. In which case, their behavior is all the more questionable as it looks increasingly more like politicking rather than a sign of their genuine desire for change.

When the group called for a press conference, the media and the public expected to hear answers to some important questions. Instead, what they got were more questions.

These former Cabinet members have the goods on the President, or so they claim. But they probably got them only because they were a party to wrongdoing. Exposing such wrongdoing requires that they come clean before the public, about how they either turned a blind eye to such illegal acts or actively participated in their commission. And up to now they seem unable to bring themselves to do this. Soon they might find out that they have run out of opportunities to do so—at least in a manner that would help achieve what they want, which is the removal of the President.

These former officials will not say all they know, unless this is done before "the proper forum," meaning an impeachment trial. There is nothing wrong with that, except that instead of keeping quite, they continue to make noise.

They cannot have it both ways. Either they tell all and accept the consequences and thus prove beyond any doubt that they're interested in revealing the truth and finding justice, or they don't say anything anymore. To tell only enough to titillate the public, without risk of being haled to court, is to indulge in politicking. And there is already more than enough of that in Congress.

The strategy of the guilty

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

(A column of mine published last April 29 was mistakenly sent last Sunday and published here last Monday instead of the correct one which follows.)

THE HOUSE justice committee will resume its impeachment hearings tomorrow (meaning yesterday) and is (was) expected to decide on two "prejudicial" questions: whether an amended complaint should be considered as another complaint, and whether the first complaint bars the two subsequent complaints. Perhaps because I am not a lawyer like many of the congressmen, I do not understand why they are wasting so much time on these technicalities that are so clear to laymen, unless the reason is to delay the impeachment hearings and kill the case.

Reading the Constitution will give them the answer. (It is unbelievable that top officials debating provisions of the Constitution do not bother to read it at all. As stated in a previous column, the House has passed a resolution to amend the Constitution through a "Constituent Assembly," proposed and endorsed by two presidents—Fidel Ramos and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo—when there is no such "Constituent Assembly" mentioned in the Constitution.) It says: "No impeachment proceedings shall be initiated against the same official more than once within a period of one year." Note that the Constitution says "proceedings," not "complaint." "Proceeding" means the whole impeachment procedure must have begun, not just the mere filing of a complaint.

And the purpose of the provision is obvious: to prevent the impeachable official from being harassed with one proceeding after another. If the official has to defend himself in one proceeding and then in another proceeding one month later, and still another a few months later, he will have no time to attend to his duties. That was the intent of the framers of the Constitution.

The three "complaints" against President Macapagal-Arroyo, on the other hand, are not yet "proceedings." They are merely "complaints" filed almost at the same time, involving the same basic complaint: betrayal of public trust. The later ones were details of or a "supplement" to the first complaint filed by Oliver Lozano which was very sketchy and weak. In fact, there are those who believe that the Lozano complaint was filed—and immediately endorsed by an administration congressman—precisely to prevent better and stronger complaints from being admitted, thus assuring that the weak, original complaint would be dismissed.

Fr. Joaquin Bernas, S.J., a member of the Constitutional Commission that wrote the present Constitution, explained the difference between a "complaint" and a "proceeding." And Dean Raul C. Pangalangan of the UP College of Law, wrote in his column that "there is no technical bar to a supplement…The current procedural rules on impeachment are silent on supplements. Therefore, to hinder the other complaint is an exercise of discretion. Our legislators must not wash their hands through technicalities and be candid enough to confess that they are voting their true selves."

Citing the intent of the framers, which is to protect public officials from harassment and allow Congress to do its work of law-making, Pangalangan noted that "hearing the three complaints (against GMA) together will advance this constitutional intent—no undue 'harassment' of the respondent, nor additional work for Congress."

The three complaints (basically only one in substance) would be heard at the same time, not separately. Separate proceedings was what the framers intended. It is a basic legal principle that "substance takes precedence over technicality," and to help determine the substance of a law, jurists go back to the minutes of the Constitutional Commission for the intent of the framers. Clearly, their intent was to prevent two or more impeachment "proceedings" to be heard one after another, not two or more similar "complaints" heard together as the present ones against GMA are.

* * *

The strategy of GMA and her allies is clearly to kill the impeachment proceeding, to prevent the evidence from being heard, instead of letting the truth be known. Did she conspire with others to cheat in the last elections or not? That is the crux of the issue. That is where all her troubles began. The people believe that she is a fake president, that she stole the presidency from Fernando Poe Jr. That is why the people refuse to accept her. That is why her approval rating is very low—and still falling—despite an extensive and expensive media blitz.

Did she or did she not cheat? She has to answer that satisfactorily. Even if the impeachment complaint is killed, her troubles will not cease. The people will continue to believe that she is not the true president and will not stop trying to oust her. Her lack of legitimacy will continue to hound her, making it difficult for her to govern. The economy, the people will continue to suffer.

To avoid that, she has to prove that she did not cheat. The only way to do that is to go through the impeachment proceedings. And if she really won "fair and square," as she claims, she has nothing to be afraid of. The trial will show she did not cheat.

An innocent person would like the trial against her to proceed quickly so that she can quickly prove her innocence. So why is she doing everything not only to delay the case but to kill it entirely?

"If the evidence is against you, prevent it from being presented or admitted through technicalities" is an old maxim among lawyers. And that has been her tactic all throughout, from the canvassing of votes to the present impeachment case.

That is the tactic of the guilty.

Rule of law

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I CAN no longer count on the gout-ravaged fingers of my hands how many times I've heard the phrase "rule of law" over the past weeks. It's been used, of course, by GMA's allies who demand that the country hew to the smallest letter, and not the largest spirit, of the law, and not move to oust GMA until she can be proven guilty beyond the palest shadow of doubt.

At the very least, what makes this breathtaking is that it's being used by the very people who moved to oust Erap when he hadn't been proven guilty beyond the darkest shadow of doubt. Lest we forget, the impeachment trial stopped before that could happen, when his allies in the Senate-turned-court refused to open the second envelope. It's "rule of law" to oust a duly elected president—no, make that a hugely elected one—for robbing the public of their trust but not so ousting a spurious president—no, make that a usurper—for robbing the voters of their votes? In the first, we had only the word of a self-confessed thief in the person of Chavit Singson; in the second, we have no less than the word of GMA herself.

Well, same word. I don't know why GMA's allies do not go on to argue that we cannot take GMA's confession seriously because we have only the word of a liar and a cheat. They have pretty much argued everything else.

That isn't being entirely facetious. The levels of imbecility we are hearing today are mindboggling. One would imagine that the rule of law would manifest itself first and foremost in the rule of reason. What we are reeling under today is the rule of insanity.

Consider the argument that it's the most dangerous thing in the world to oust GMA because we will only produce someone exactly like her or worse. Strangely, that is being suggested by GMA's allies themselves: It was all right to have taken the extra-constitutional route twice before because we didn't know any better. But now that we know that people power only makes things worse, not better, we should stop at GMA. Let her rule, even if she was never elected president. The alternative is so much worse.

Isn't that pure imbecility? Isn't that rewarding wrongdoing rather than punishing it? Isn't that saying that the more evil GMA does, the more we should balk at the thought of replacing her because think of what it means to have a **bigger** evil? It's not unlike the police asking for more budget because crime riots. The more they are unable to curb crime, the more they are justified in asking for more money. Isn't that making evil its own excuse for being?

Or consider where GMA's confession has gone. You can't oust GMA on the basis of it, say GMA's allies, many of whom are lawyers, because she never admitted to talking to Virgilio Gacillano, she admitted only to talking to "a Comelec official." Garcillano himself is nowhere to be found. He could not be prevented from leaving the country, the Bureau of Immigration says, because he hasn't been charged with anything, he is a free man. And now the pilot that flew him out of the country says he may have hidden in the cargo bay.

One would imagine that the rule of law also means the rule of common sense. This isn't law, this is *lokohan*. Can there be any shadow of doubt the person GMA called up and was referring to in her confession is Garcillano? Can there be any shadow of doubt the unctuous and scratchy voice that said, "Hello Garci," can belong only, thank God, to GMA? The fact that Garci hasn't been charged with anything does not justify his disappearance, it only indicts the entire justice department. Why hasn't he been charged? Why hasn't he been arrested? There is more than enough evidence to show he plotted with the President to defraud the voters. As to Garci hiding in the cargo bay to escape to the Bahamas, or wherever he went to enjoy his spoils, I leave that to the residents of the famous institution in Mandaluyong to dwell on.

In this country, it's become almost axiomatic that when you hear someone shout rule of law, law is the last thing he wants to reign. In this country, patriotism is not the last refuge of scoundrels, law is. You look at the way the impeachment process is being mugged by the creatures who are pleased to call themselves representatives (representatives of what?) and ask yourself if that can remotely conjure the idea of rule of law. One is tempted to say that is the law of the jungle, but even wild beasts are known to comport themselves with more dignity and grace. As it is, an impeachment is already a compromise, presuming as it does that GMA is the President, albeit one who betrayed the public trust. Elsewhere, the rule of law defines president as someone who won in the elections, not as someone who tampered with the elections. In Japan, officials who apologize for having committed an impropriety, however small, commit hara-kiri. Here presidents who apologize for having committed an impropriety, however criminal, become Ate Glue.

We've gone full circle, back to martial law when at no time was the law invoked more ardently yet at no time was lawlessness more rife. It is law that has nothing to do with justice. No, more than that, it is law that thwarts justice. Marcos was the most law-abiding Filipino president of all time, except that he wrote the law. GMA is the second most law abiding Filipino president of all time, except that Villaraza et al., aka The Firm, writes the law. In fact, the rule of law is as incompatible to the rule of GMA as oil and water, angels and demons, Caesar's wife and Mike Arroyo's wife. What GMA's allies want is not the rule of law, it is mob rule.

The rule of reason is clear: No GMA, no crisis. The rule of democracy is clear: No mandate, no rule.

The rule of law is clear: Oust her.

UP 'alumna' heads Tokyo university

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

YOKOHAMA, Japan—Grand Hotel is Yokohama's answer to our Manila Hotel. Both are elegant relics of the past built for the rich and famous. And they share one unique wartime distinction: Gen. Douglas MacArthur stayed in both hotels. His room in Grand when he came for Japan's unconditional surrender 1945 is still open at $700 a night.

But I'm waiting to interview a special guest, a wartime baby who has made Japanese history by becoming the first woman president of a national co-educational university in a country that is not exactly noted for feminism. Dr. Setsuho Ikehata, born in Korea of Japanese parents caught in the winds of war, overcame adversity to rise to the top in Japanese society. She was the only girl in Nagasaki Prefecture who passed the entrance exam to the most prestigious institution in Japan, Tokyo University, more popularly known as Todai. And she ended up one of only three female graduates, among 800, at the Faculty of Law where she obtained her bachelor's degree. Ikehata subsequently earned her M.A. and Litt.D. at Todai in Southeast Asian history, becoming Japan's foremost specialist in Philippine history.

She has written about the Philippines under Spain, the Philippine Revolution, the famous expatriate Gen. Artemio Ricarte, and Filipino social movements. In 1963, she went to Manila to do research in the old archives on Oroquieta Street in Quiapo. She was based at the University of the Philippines.

In 2001, she was appointed the first female president of Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS), otherwise known as Tokyo Gaidai, the oldest institution in Japan devoted to international studies, which was established in 1899 as Tokyo School of Foreign Languages. It is a world center for Japanese language education, as well as a leading center for research and teaching on 50 foreign languages, half of which are Asian. It's the only university teaching such languages as Mongolian, Czech, Urdu, Hindi, Arabic, Persian and Turkish, among the more commonly known Western languages.

The "UP connection" in Ikehata's career is what brings me here. If Japan is proud of this native daughter, the Philippines shares indirectly in that pride.

Recognizing her outstanding academic career, UP awarded her a doctorate degree, honoris causa, in 1998. This made her the first Japanese academic to receive a distinguished honorary degree from UP, making her an alumna.

My first question to her was how she felt about being the first woman president of TUFS. She replied that she was not "conscious as a woman" when she was appointed, not even in the ensuing four years. "If there is a disadvantage being a female president," she mused, "there were some graduates of the university, in the '50s, mainly men, who thought lightly of women." However, they soon saw "how I work as president and I feel their perception has changed."

She made some remarkable achievements, enough to get her a second term as president. The last year of this term, she said, will be devoted to preparing the stage for the next president in the interest of smooth transition and continuity.

The hallmark of her leadership is not only action but vision. Asked about her most rewarding experiences, she mentioned the fact that her university has gained a higher reputation and enhanced its public presence under her watch. "In that sense I have made a contribution," she said, especially in light of the fact that the ministry has introduced highly competitive programs in education and research. The university has won many of these grants over the past four years.

Regarding the university's future, she is looking at its role internally and internationally. "We at TUFS aim to become an international hub university, so that we can assume the responsibilities entrusted to us by the Japanese people." She believes the university has established academic programs "that endow students with a high level of language education, and ability to promote international cooperation, and other specialized skills necessary in today's global society." And only recently, the university has also introduced a Peace and Conflict Studies Program that accepts students from all over the world.

There are problems as well, as would be the case elsewhere. The most pressing is the privatization issue, which has decreased the university's government budget. Privatization has given university presidents more authority in raising private funds and conducting top-down management initiatives. "The responsibilities as president have become heavier, which have in turn made me even busier," she said.

From a personal standpoint, her heavy burdens as president have made her unable to pursue further scholarly research. Fortunately, she is temperamentally suited for the job and she seems to be enjoying it. Her vision and work ethic have made TUFS truly a world-class university.

And, of course, her contributions to Philippine scholarship will be long remembered. Interestingly, Grand Hotel faces the famous Yamashita Park. And in one corner is a marker for General Ricarte, one of Ikehata's research interests. Her monograph on Ricarte should be required reading for both Japanese and Filipino students. That's something very unusual—for a Japanese scholar to write about one of our own, within the broader framework of Philippine-Japanese relations.

Belinda A. Aquino is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is also director of the Center for Philippine Studies.

Eternal vigilance

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AN INCIDENT at yesterday's hearing of the House committee on justice on the impeachment of President Macapagal Arroyo reminded me of an incident of youthful adventurism—or idealism, if you will—that I took part in.

Yesterday's live coverage on ANC showed a group of observers in the gallery taking advantage of a lull in the speech-making and debating by suddenly rising and unfurling a banner which, as far as I could tell, called for the resignation and/or impeachment of the President. Others in the group also showed their displeasure by pumping the air with a "thumbs down" sign.

Reporters at the scene said the protesters, led by indie actor Pen Medina, had also begun shouting slogans. House security personnel immediately hustled the protesters out of the session hall, even as committee chair Rep. Simeon Datumanong threatened that if another such incident took place, he would bar observers from future hearings.

The scene led me to an immediate flashback to that day more than 30 years ago when, as a high school student, I skipped classes to join other students and workers in a protest inside the old Congress building in Manila (now occupied by the National Museum), for what issue I now forget. Like yesterday's protesters, we unfurled banners and shouted slogans, and like them we were immediately escorted out of the session hall.

I don't know what the House security did to yesterday's protesters, but in our time, we were immediately loaded into police vehicles and brought to the nearest police station where our fingerprints were taken. We had violated a law penalizing disruption of congressional proceedings, we were told.

* * *

IT was enough for me that we were allowed to go home that same evening. But if I thought the worst had blown over, I couldn't have been more wrong.

The next morning, I was awakened by the screams of my mother, who had rushed from Pangasinan to my uncle's home in Cubao, where I was boarding, the minute she read my name among the protesters charged with disrupting the peace at Congress.

Even worse was the news that I couldn't leave Manila for my summer vacation because all of us "accused" had to be ready to respond to any summons for a hearing. Our lawyers must have done a good job of representing us because we never heard from the police again.

It's small potatoes, I know, compared to the tales of other activists who were arrested, detained, tortured and killed, or who sacrificed their future by joining the New People's Army. But the incident in Congress was a turning point of sorts for me, snapping me out of the heedless bravado I exhibited in the early years and making me realize that there were far graver consequences to activism than just missing classes or eluding my parents' wrath.

During the "Black & White Movement" press conference yesterday, the one where Dinky Soliman revealed alleged machinations from Malacañang behind the filing of the "Lozano complaint," Ed Garcia, who had been one of the more prominent figures in the protest movement of the early 1970s, spoke of a "generation in crisis." He referred not just to himself but to others, including many among the "Hyatt 10" and in the hall that day, who have been activists for a lifetime, it seems, from before martial law and throughout that Dark Age, from the post-Ninoy assassination years to the coup-ridden Cory administration, fighting the attempts to amend the Constitution during the Ramos administration, ousting Erap and now moving against GMA.

* * *

THE QUESTION of the day seemed to be, as it has been since the "Garci tapes" emerged: Where do we go from here?

The fire and spirit of activism, the heat of moral outrage—all these have shelf lives, too, it seems. It's not only the aging First Quarter Storm-ers, or the graying figures of the protest movement, who're feeling age and infirmity creeping in. The people, too, seem to find it more difficult to rouse themselves on political or even moral issues. "We're getting too old for this," lamented a friend with whom I had marched since those protests of decades ago. "Isn't it the young people's turn now?"

I can't pin the blame solely on the youth's perceived indifference or lack of civic spirit. There's a reason for it, too. And that's precisely the tone of defeatism and disillusionment from the "generation in crisis," the activists of the 1970s and 1980s who can't shake the feeling that from the moment they first rallied and marched to Plaza Miranda, they haven't stopped protesting since.

Then again, as some wise person said: Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. We may all be feeling tired and burnt-out, and nursing still a profound sense of disillusionment, but citizenship demands our unending vigilance. Love of country demands a bottomless supply of caring and yes, idealism.

* * *

IN A PREVIOUS column, I made mention of the Calapan Waterworks Corp. and how it succeeded, despite numerous road blocks put up by the opposition within the local government and among NGOs, in delivering the crucial basic service of providing clean and safe water to the city's residents. One of the factors that helped Calapan Waterworks proceed with its mission was, they acknowledge, the granting of a congressional franchise that protected it from further legal impediments.

Among those who provided assistance to the corporation in winning the franchise was former Rep. Renato Leviste who helped push the application for a franchise in the House. In fact, Leviste's wife Charity, who took over her husband's congressional seat from 2001-2004, also provided crucial support until the corporation was granted the franchise.

A glimpse of a hero's life and times

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

TWICE a year I drop by the Museo ng Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, located at the basement of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila on Roxas Boulevard, to view the stunning collection of Philippine pre-colonial gold and pottery. When people ask why I re-visit something I have seen before, my reply usually is that it is one way for me to recharge, to find something in the past to be proud of because contemporary news is so depressing. The only problem is that when you reflect on these intricate pieces of jewelry and realize that the Philippines is one of the top gold producing countries in the world, you wonder why we are in such a rut economically.

On each visit, I examine every piece in the vitrines to see if I overlooked anything on previous visits. For example, in the filigree work on one of the gold trinkets, one can make out human figures where I once only saw geometric designs. Surely there is more than meets the eye and it is only a matter of time before we find every clue in these artifacts.

It is unfortunate that most visitors to this very solemn basement museum are drawn to the glitter of gold rather than the dull tinge of red that makes our earthenware so fascinating to archaeologists. Here we see vessels in various shapes and come to realize that our lowly *palayok*, which is often used to serve *sinigang* or *kare-kare* in Filipino restaurants, has a design and function that have not changed much in thousands of years.

There are a number of oversized burial jars on display and I often see visitors knocking on the sides, or even putting their heads on the mouth and making noise to elicit an echo. If they knew that these jars once bore the remains of our pre-colonial ancestors, they would surely show more respect. Those who keep away from these jars probably saw the B-rated horror flick "Halimaw sa Banga" where an evil pre-colonial spirit eats people who come near the jar used as interior decoration in a posh suburban home.

Before you go into the basement of the Metropolitan, you pass by a Bench shop with some very cute items, and one wonders if Ben Chan would make more money if he plastered the walls with those sizzling underwear and b/low posters that are causing traffic accidents everywhere they have been prominently placed. The walls on the way to the basement are also filled with paintings from the collection of the Bangko Sentral, which were loaned to the Metropolitan so that the public can enjoy these masterpieces without having to go into the high-security BSP complex. At the moment, the mezzanine floor has more paintings from the BSP collection running around the theme "Gold in Philippine Art," a rather loose excuse to group these things together. The chance to see these paintings, many of which I have only seen in photographs, was worth the trouble.

The Met has an ongoing exhibit on the Paternos of Quiapo, which is worth a visit. There is a previously unknown painting there by Jose Rizal that sparks more questions than answers. It's a very good portrait of one of the Paternos and one wonders why someone who painted so competently as this left us with only one painting. Where are the rest of Rizal's paintings and why has this particular one eluded historians for over a century? All of Rizal's artwork has been documented, even those that were destroyed during the Battle for Manila in 1945. This portrait has emerged out of nowhere and I wish that other unknown Rizal works will surface in the coming years.

Part of the exhibit that I found particularly fascinating was the embroidery work by the Paterno women. These look like very fine drawings on silk, and one will surely overlook these unless you are told that these were made of human hair! That's what happens when you have few distractions like the Internet or cable TV.

Pedro Paterno, the most prominent member of the family, is everywhere in the show, and if you want to read his works today, you can get hold of a copy of "The Pact of Biyak-na-Bato" and "Ninay" published recently by the National Historical Institute. The former is Paterno's first-hand account of the Pact of Biak-na-Bato in 1897 and the latter, also in the same volume, is "Ninay" which, contrary to popular belief, is the first Filipino novel (not Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere").

Looking at all these Paterno relics reminded me of his account of a Caviteña:

"A lady, a beautiful lass of 17 years came to me one night panting, trembling with her long hair spread out on her shoulders down to her back like a dark night. Her sweet lips were rosy and quivering, with her eyes filled with tears and her chest palpitating. I asked her, 'What do you want?' And, I came to learn that all she wanted was for me to take her along. She told me between sobs and tears that she was very unfortunate, having fallen prey to a revolutionary chief whom she hated. My soul was tearing me to pieces because of this enchanting lady. But what could I do?"

Paterno solved the problem with money to manage her escape and all he got in return was a garland of sampaguita which he placed in a box filled with stale papers and bad debts. This exhibit provides an intimate glimpse of the life and times of a historical figure, with each artifact producing more questions than answers.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Scratch, scratch

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I SHARED this riddle recently but, here it is again: "*Paa niya nasa ulo*" (What has its feet on the head?)

The answer, which should get you scratching your head now is: *kuto* or lice.

Life can be lousy with all those lice, yet I'm realizing many Filipinos seem to have a rather cavalier attitude toward these creatures from hell. Even in Metro Manila, it's still common to see women picking lice from each other's hair, sometimes involving grandmother, mother and granddaughter, sitting on a flight of stairs.

Whenever I attempt health education in communities, mothers will insist lice (and intestinal parasites, which deserve another column) are quite normal, especially for children. "*Galing 'yan sa araw* (It comes from the sun)," they rationalize, until I have them run their fingers through the head of a kid that has a particularly heavy load of lice. I keep the mothers' hands on the head so they can feel the lice running through their fingers, and then have them run their fingers through the hair to feel the eggs (nits in English, *lisa* in Tagalog). They'll scream in mock horror and agree to do something, but two weeks later, I'll find nothing's been done.

I'm afraid we look at lice pretty much like corrupt politicians—you just have to live with them.

Bounce, bounce

The rather casual attitudes we have toward lice always surprises me, considering the importance we attach to our hair. Of the 10 products most advertised in the Philippines, eight are shampoos (the remaining two are Globe and Smart cell phone services). We're willing to splurge on shampoos, believing it improves our appeal, even our marriageability if we are to believe one of those shampoo ads. We seek luster, shine, bounce...and never mind if there are lice bouncing along as well from hair to hair.

Lice are amazing creatures, with some 3,000 species, different lice developing with very specific hosts. Curiously, the Tagalog term for human lice is *kuto*, which is the same term we use for fleas that afflict dogs, cats, chickens. But dog fleas—which we call *kuto* or *pulgas*—are different from lice. Then there are ticks, which we call *garapata*, which are again different from fleas and lice.

Itchy yet? Let's look at the types of lice humans host. We have three different species: head lice, body lice and pubic lice, their names describing their specific niches on the human body. Human lice make good case studies for explaining natural selection and evolution, each species adapted to a particular environment. It's not surprising pubic lice are sometimes called crabs—they resemble the aquatic creatures, their legs spread further apart than body and hair lice, reflecting the difference in terrain that needs to be negotiated.

The lice are also rather finicky with their environments, not surviving too long outside their intended host, or even the specific site where they're supposed to be. I used to joke to my students that the head lice prefer cooler climates while the pubic lice go around in sunglasses and Bermuda shorts, well adapted to warmer, more torrid regions. Generally, the lice pretty much stick to the part of the body that they are intended for. Occasionally, you do get some migration: for example, pubic lice sometimes ends up on the eyebrows or moustache, which tells us more about the adventurous antics of humans rather than the lice themselves.

Lice do us part

Lice are extremely contagious. With head lice, all it takes is for one kid in class to have it and before you know it, half of the class have it as well, courtesy of the rough and tumble world of children's games. Both body and hair lice can be passed on through clothes, bed sheets, towels. In fact, the term flea market came about because old clothes sold there often had fleas and lice.

Do *ukay-ukay* clothes transmit lice? I wonder. In the first place, I haven't really heard of body lice infestations among Filipinos, maybe because we generally aren't hairy enough to sustain them.

The bottom line is that no one dies from lice but they can be a terrible inconvenience, with the constant scratching you have to do. Other animal species develop social solidarity by grooming each other, picking out lice and fleas and ticks and to some extent, some human societies, including our own, still allow that. I doubt if any of us will ever decide to marry someone because of the prospects of spending life together de-lousing each other. If anything, the lice will probably drive away potential friends and spouses—till lice do us part.

I warn mothers that the constant scratching, especially with children, can cause secondary infections. I'd worry more about the distress from the itching—with pubic lice, you can't scratch as liberally as you do with head lice and you certainly can't groom each other. I'd worry too about body lice, which are more dangerous than their two other cousins because they can transmit typhus and trench fever.

'Suyod'

What then should you do if you discover lice in the family, and with helpers?

Public health authorities don't quite agree yet about what to do with the combs, pillows, clothes and linen of people with lice. The US Center for Disease Control and Prevention still recommend boiling the stuff to get rid of the lice, but others say the lice don't live too long outside of the body.

There are all kinds of traditional remedies, including dousing the hair with kerosene but I joke about being careful not to light up a cigarette. No, kerosene isn't safe.

With pubic lice I've heard people applying meat to the affected area, to draw them away. But even if you don't use beef steak, it's still expensive therapy, and probably not very effective.

Doctors prescribe lotions and shampoos. Kwell is a favored brand and it used to contain the rather toxic insecticide lindane, now replaced by permethrin, which may be milder but is still an insecticide.

The Aug. 5 issue of the British Medical Journal had an article with a rather grand title: "A single blind, randomized comparative study of the Bug Buster kit and over the counter pediculicide treatments of head lice in the United Kingdom" comparing malathion (yes, another toxic insecticide!), permethrin and a Bug Buster kit. The Bug Buster kit had a 57 percent cure rate compared to 17 percent for malathion and 10 percent for permethrin.

Bug Buster kit? Simple, it involves combing through wet, conditioned hair with a fine-toothed comb. Four "treatments" are needed, three days apart. You can see even the Bug Buster kit is far from being 100 percent effective but it's more effective than the insecticides, and safer. The authors of the article also point out the low cure rates of the insecticides suggest the lice may have developed resistance to the chemicals.

Fine-toothed combs? That's our ever-dependable *suyod*, which you can get in the market for about P15. Will it work for the more tropically inclined relatives of head lice? No harm trying.

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What's wrong, what's right in the Philippines

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Fearless, we are in binding ourselves as the Solidarity of the Filipino people in search of the truth, to correct what is wrong and to fight for what is right.

The truth is: Democracy is the basic foundation of any meaningful and positive development for Filipinos.

The truth is: Democracy in our country has been jeopardized by the flagrant and deliberate manipulation of the electoral process by no less than the highest official of the land and by those who are constitutionally mandated to protect its integrity.

What is wrong is those in government, who were sworn to uphold the law and serve the public interest, are being conscripted to fool the people for no other but selfish and vested interests.

What's wrong is the people are being divided by narrow partisan interests.

What is right is the unity and determination of most Filipinos to effect timely and appropriate changes that will promote democracy and progress for all.

What is right is ousting GMA now!

What is right is advancing and implementing radical reforms now so we can start building a stable and self-sufficient republic.

—DAVE DIWA and BONNIE BUMANGLAG, lead convenors, Solidarity (an alliance of various moderate, cause-oriented, progressive and militant sectoral mass organizations), solidarity@mailshak.com

LETTERS

New unemployment definition meant to align statistics with global standard

PLEASE allow us to comment on the Aug. 10 column of Michael Tan, in which he argued that government survey figures are often used for political purposes. He cited the reduction in the unemployment rate, following the use of a new definition on unemployment.

We would like to point out that the Department of Labor and Employment's Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (BLES) began calling for a change in the definition of unemployment in 1987. However, it took the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) some time to act on the recommendation of the interagency committee on labor, income and productivity statistics (IACLIPS)—of which BLES is a member.

The IACLIPS abhors politicking and doesn't want to be accused of window-dressing statistics. However, it could no longer delay adopting the change. There was need for the change so as to make the country's labor statistics comparable with those of some 88 countries worldwide and to ensure that foreign investors give us a fair deal in the assessment of our credit worthiness. The NSCB eventually approved the recommendation, including the time of its implementation, which was set only after this year's presidential election to avoid politicizing the issue. In compliance with the board resolution, an interagency task force was created to generate public awareness of the change made and its related issues.

Aside from ensuring international comparability, the new unemployment definition allows us to break down and analyze the figures mentioned by Tan. Specifically, those classified as discouraged workers have been given special attention. Their socio-economic profile provided an interesting subject for policy analysis, essential in the generation of insights and appropriate policy interventions by both executive and legislative bodies. The Department of Labor and Employment, in particular, has initially begun focusing its scarce resources and employment interventions on the group that matters most—the unemployed who are available and willing to take up work.

—JAY T. JULIAN, OIC-director, Information and Public Service, Department of Labor and Employment, Intramuros, Manila

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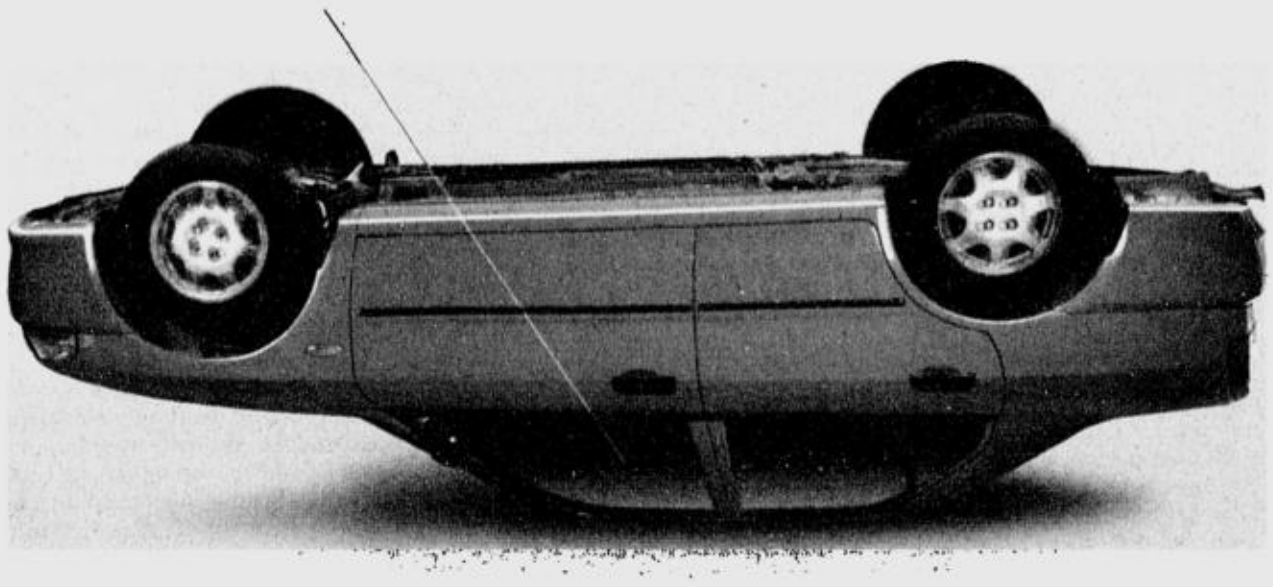

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GMA adviser eyed as new head of SBMA

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Malacañang is reportedly considering Renato Diaz, presidential adviser for Central Luzon, for the post vacated by resigned Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Francisco Licuanan III, a Palace source said on Tuesday.

But Diaz, in a phone interview, said he has yet to receive any official word on this plan.

He said he would accept the post if it was given to him by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Yes, I would, because I'm committed to the development of the area," he told the INQUIRER.

Subic and Clark, Diaz said, are premium sites for growth, a magnet for investments and tourism. "We have to make it work," he said.

Diaz, a former Nueva Ecija representative, served as presidential adviser for North Luzon from February 2001 to August 2004. He has since been named adviser for Central Luzon where Subic and Clark belong.

But another Palace source said Diaz was "not being considered" to the SBMA.

"He is trying hard to get politicians to endorse him," said the source, who holds a Cabinet position.

Aside from Diaz, Rodolfo "Inky" Reyes is also on the list of possible appointees to the SBMA, another Malacañang source said.

Reyes used to be deputy administrator and chief of staff when Sen. Richard Gordon headed the SBMA from 1992 to 1998.

There was no word if Armand Arreza, a former SBMA finance manager and who was recently appointed to the SBMA board, was on the list.

Gordon recommended Arreza to the SBMA board but the senator's move in pushing the appointment of people close to him to the SBMA reportedly caused Licuanan's resignation.

Zambales Vice Gov. Ramon Lacbain II urged Ms Arroyo to choose a "qualified candidate" from the province where the northern part is occupied by the 12,000-hectare Subic freeport, a former American naval base.

"If she has not yet appointed an SBMA chair and administrator, I strongly appeal to her to appoint a qualified Zambaleño who is neither from the Gordon nor Magsaysay camp," Lacbain said.

He said past SBMA chairmen, Gordon and former Rep. Felicito Payumo, hailed from Olongapo City and Bataan, respectively. The freeport straddles these areas.

Lacbain suggested former Executive Secretary Ruben Torres; Philip Camara, a development worker, banker and currently, the private sector representative for tourism at the regional development council; Edwin Mendaros, a real estate developer and banker; and Luis Abueva, a civil society leader.

Businessmen here and top officials of Zambales said they would welcome any appointee.

Jimmy Vicente, secretary general of the Automotive Rebuilders Association of Subic (Aris), said what investors want as replacement of Licuanan and SBMA Administrator Alfredo Antonio is somebody not identified with any politician. *Tonette Orejas, Allan Macatuno and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Church says Aurora family planning program promotes 'culture of death'

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Aurora government's ordinance on reproductive health care, said to be the first in the country to promote a full range of family planning methods that include modern contraceptives, came under fire from the Catholic Church in that province.

"It promotes a culture of death," the vicariate of Valley-Ding said in a statement it distributed on Aug. 19.

The opposition to Ordinance 125 (Aurora Reproductive Health Care Code of 2005) has the full support of Bishop Rolando Tria Tirona of the prelature of Infanta (Quezon), which oversees the vicariate or the cluster of churches in Dipaculao, Dingalan, San Luis and Maria Aurora towns, the statement said.

Fr. Nestor Von Villanueva, administrator of the vicariate, said priests, nuns and lay leaders in four northern Aurora towns would meet to finalize its stand on the ordinance.

According to the vicariate, the ordinance "encourages couples to use modern family methods and modern contraceptive devices, and sex education starting among grade school students."

"Behind these plans is the wrong understanding that rising population is the root of poverty," it said.

It warned that the "quick methods and cheap, easily accessible artificial contraceptives and devices would not only cause sicknesses but also deaths."

The vicariate only approved of the natural family planning methods, which the Catholic hierarchy had promoted and which the Arroyo administration had adopted as a primary program.

Only couples, the vicariate said, have the right to decide on the number of their children.

It said the widespread poverty gripping Aurora and the rest of the country were due to "social and economic structures that concentrate power and wealth in a few people, and weak governance that result in corruption that robs basic social services meant for the people." *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

4 teeners killed in road crash

ROXAS CITY—Four teenagers, including a Sangguniang Kabataan chair in Iloilo, were killed when the motorcycle they were riding collided with a Nissan pick-up on Saturday afternoon in Barangay San Nicolas, Pilar town, Capiz.

The reports reaching Capiz Police Provincial Office (CPPO) here identified the fatalities as Jorie Dianson, 19, SK chair of Barangay Daan Banwa in Estancia town; and his companions Almira Alderama, 17; Jane de la Cuesta, 17; and an unidentified female teenager.

The victims were all from Estancia town in Iloilo and were in Barangay San Nicolas in Pilar town last Aug. 27 to attend the village fiesta.

Police investigation showed that the four victims were on board a motorcycle on their way home to Estancia town when its rear tire suddenly burst while traversing Barangay San Nicolas on an accelerated speed.

Dianson, who was driving the motorcycle, lost control of the vehicle. The motorcycle then rammed into an approaching Nissan pick-up driven by Gregnard Almazora.

Almazora later surrendered to the police station in Balasan town in Iloilo because it was nearer to the scene of the accident. He was later turned over to the Pilar police. *Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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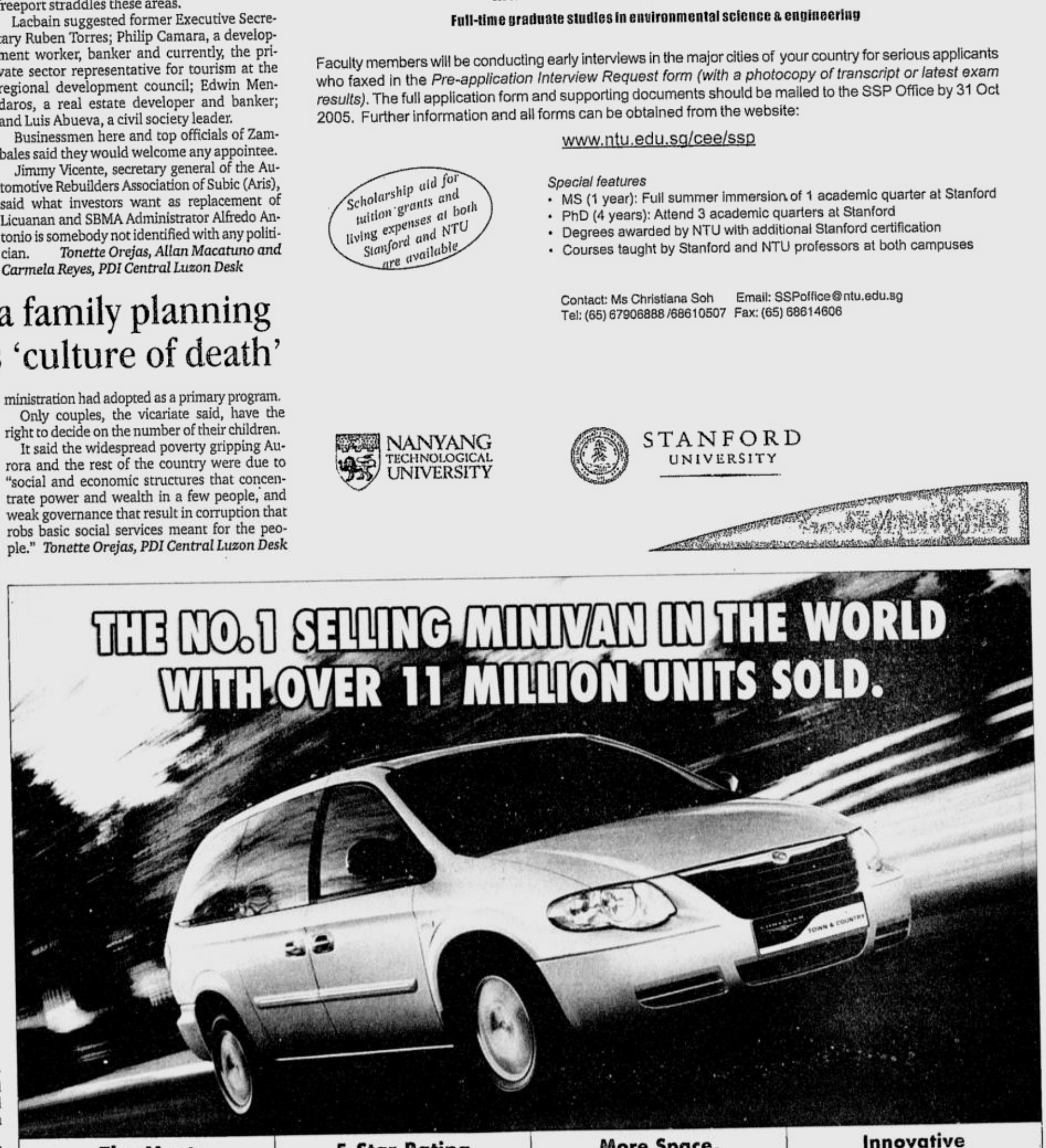

COA says P7.7-M water firm fund release illegal

By Felipe Celino
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—The Commission on Audit (COA) has found as illegal the disbursement of more than P7.7 million by the Metro Roxas Water District (MRWD) to the Bureau of Customs (BOC) for the payment of customs duties and taxes for imported equipment, which would be used for a water treatment plant.

In a two-page Audit Observation Memorandum, COA regional cluster director Natividad Asentista said the obligation to pay the P7,720,770 in taxes was with the contractor of the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and not with the MRWD.

She said the payment of customs duties and taxes for the imported equipment purchased by the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) deprived the MRWD of the use of the equity fund for the loan.

The COA had referred its finding to the Regional and Adjudication Office for filing of appropriate charges, if necessary, against the officials who allowed and authorized the alleged illegal disbursement.

According to the COA report, J.V. Angeles Construction Corp. (JVACC) was awarded the contract to improve and expand the MRWD water supply system, funded by two loan packages from the Japan Bank of International Cooperation. The first package amounted to P710 million and then an additional P193 million was later released.

A component of this project was the construction of the WTP in Barangay Paslang, Panitan town, Capiz, which was worth P349 million.

The LWUA purchased the imported equipment for the use of the construction of the water treatment plant. Audit of disbursement showed that upon request of LWUA, the MRWD paid the BOC more than P7.7 million in taxes on Dec. 9, 2004.

But in the letter request made by engineer Boy Amores, former LWUA project manager here, it was specified that the payment be deducted from the billing of the contractor.

The COA said this was a "blatant admission" that the obligation to pay the taxes did not belong to MRWD.

The construction of the proposed WTP was, however, delayed after a fact-finding committee (FFC) found the project not viable because it would result in an increase in water rates in the long term.

The FFC, headed by Presidential Anti-Graft Commissioner Nicasio Conti, was created by Sen. Mar Roxas II to look into the viability of the proposed water expansion project of MRWD.

TERROR WATCH REUTERS
A soldier stands guard outside the passenger ferry in which an explosion took place in a wharf in Basilan. At least 30 people were injured in the explosion, which authorities believe was an act of terror.

Gloria recalls pardon for 17 Chinese poachers

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the recall of a conditional pardon she earlier gave for the release of the 17 Chinese poachers serving prison terms at the Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm here.

Palawan 2nd District Rep. Abraham Mitra said that when he met the President last week, he told her about the Palaweños' opposition to the pardon.

The President, he said, immediately called some of her staff members to verify the pardon she had signed.

It turned out that the pardon was signed last July and the Chief Executive could no longer remember that she signed such order.

Mitra said Ms Arroyo immediately ordered the recall of the pardon.

This was confirmed by Mitra when he called Justice Raul Gonzales, who told him that the pardon was already recalled.

Mitra added that he had also talked with the superintendent of Iwahig Prison and he learned that the pardon order was made in July but the Chinese were still in their custody because they still had to comply with some requirements.

"That means it was being kept secret from us but fortunately, it came to our knowledge," he said.

While the country is dealing with China on trade relations, Mitra said the Chinese poachers' should serve their prison term.

"Of course, we understand the diplomatic relations but that's in Manila and it's different here in Palawan," Mitra said. *Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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PLATINUM

Meeting sought between Cavite gov, vice gov

TRECE MARTIRES CITY—On his first day back at his office after the nine-day standoff at the provincial capitol, Cavite Vice Gov. Johnvic Remulla's fiery stance on the purported anomalies of the provincial government did not wane a bit.

Yesterday, Remulla challenged Gov. Erineo "Ayong" Maliksi to start genuine reforms at the capitol to save the province from a supposed imminent financial collapse.

The 37-year-old vice governor, who was barred by Maliksi's supporters from entering the capitol since the governor was suspended by the Ombudsman, said he will be personally handing out his 12-point "call to good governance" agenda to Maliksi during the flag ceremony on Sept. 5.

Most of his proposal is aimed at cutting down the operational cost of the capitol and realign it for basic social services like increasing financial capability of public hospitals.

If the plan pushes through, it will be the first meeting between the former political allies in almost a month.

"I'm hoping that he will read it. I'm doing this in good faith. There's nothing personal here. This is just about good governance," he told reporters at his office.

He, however, said that he is willing to drop the three more cases that he is planning to file against the governor once he approves his proposal "for the sake of good governance."

"Once I see that he is doing remedial efforts to clean the capitol, then I'm willing to (settle it amicably) than go through filing of cases," Remulla said.

Sought for comment, Maliksi said he is willing to adopt Remulla's suggestions to weed out supposed irregularities at the capitol.

"I will study his proposals. As I've said before, I'm willing to take his suggestion if it is feasible, attainable and reasonable. I am very much willing to listen to what he wants to say," Maliksi told the INQUIRER.

Included in Remulla's "wish list" is the immediate downsizing of the Cavite government.

He claimed that the capitol has too many casual employees and consultants assigned to Maliksi's office.

He said these unnecessary positions eat up P130 million of their annual budget.

He said the savings from his proposals would help the provincial government manage its P500 million deficit.

He argued, based on the supposed documents he gathered, that most of the 2,000 casual employees were "ghost employees."

Remulla said the governor should also dissolve the Civil Security Unit (CSU) and instead install a Public Safety Office.

He said the 237 members of the CSU, most of whom are armed, are being used as private goons of some politicians.

But Maliksi refuted Remulla's allegations.

He said all the appointments at his office were aboveboard. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Tradition helps upland folk survive crisis

By Maurice Malanes
Kibungan, Benguet

A LONG tradition of being each other's keeper is helping the Kankanaey people in Kibungan, Benguet, survive tragedies, such as death (which is enough to throw family members into the debt pit), especially in these times of crisis.

When a woman elder, Ganaya Bay-an Bolislis, died Aug. 6 at 86, for example, her death expenses—from embalming to cost of animals for religious rites—reached more than P63,000.

Donation

But thanks to an age-old practice of giving *deng-aw* or donation as fellow villagers' and relatives' show of respect for the dead. From an average of P100 per person (the lowest amount is P20), the *deng-aw* collection reaches more than P51,000.

The three children of Bolislis would thus divide among themselves the P13,000 deficit, which, one of them said, was "manageable."

"Death as a tragedy becomes lighter for the family left behind because of our *deng-aw* practice," said an elder. "With the *deng-aw*, even a pauper here is accorded a decent burial."

From the first day to the fifth day during Bolislis' wake, community folk had to butcher a cow and seven pigs, which took the bulk of the expenses. The animals were offered as part of the religious rites.

In fact, the number of animals for Bolislis' death should have been more had the children strictly adhered to indigenous tradition.

It was trimmed down because the children asserted that their mother be accorded also a Christian funeral.

Compromise

As a result of a compromise between elders and the three children, expenses for the wake and funeral were reduced.

The urban practice of embalming the dead was also introduced. Under Kankanaey tradition, the dead are not embalmed.

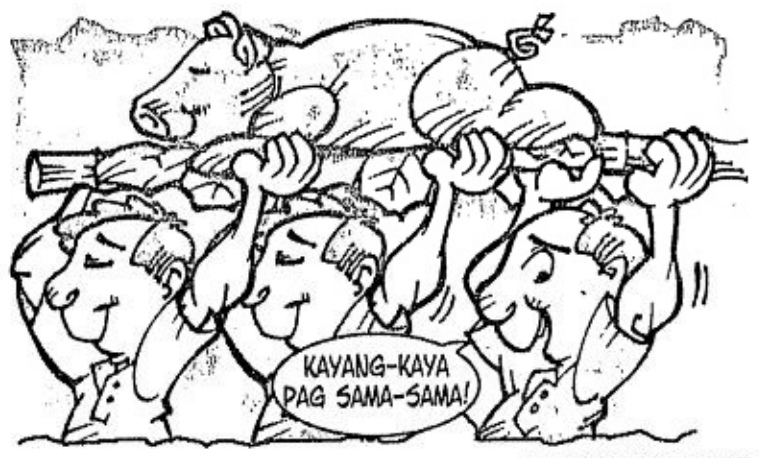

ILLUSTRATION BY LA MISTADES

Despite the compromise, animals had to be slaughtered to feed thrice a day the mourners and well-wishers, who actually included the whole village and visiting relatives. This practice is also common among other Cordillera peoples.

Coffee, cookies and bread brought by mourners were also served during the night to help keep chanters and all others who kept vigil awake.

Preparing and cooking food was no problem during Bolislis' wake. Community members, including the youth, helped in fetching firewood, butchering animals, cooking and serving. Others helped build a concrete tomb for the late elder.

To restore or demolish Casa Vallejo

By Erlyn Ruth Alcantara
Contributor

BUILT nearly a century ago, Casa Vallejo is one of Baguio City's oldest remaining structures. The remnant of the city's Government Center is one of the few buildings that survived bombings during World War II.

Its nondescript facade belies a colorful history: It served as a dormitory, temporary classrooms, and a refuge for Filipino and foreign evacuees of two world wars.

"Dormitory 4" of the Government Center was constructed in 1909 and became a private hotel in 1923. The Vallejo family stopped the hotel operations in March 2000 and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources now holds its lease.

Prime lot

Since then, news has been floated that a large structure would rise on that last prime lot at the top of Session Road. The DENR is still "evaluating its fair market value," according to Lucio Quimbo, officer in-charge for special projects of the Natural Resources Development Corp.

Casa Vallejo goes back to the earliest days of Baguio's creation as an American mountain resort town. It was one of nine major buildings in the Government Center complex built in 1908-09.

During the "Baguio season," principal bureaus of the national government transferred to Baguio in late March up to mid-June, moving personnel, equipment and eight tons of files to the new summer capital.

Dormitory 4, like other structures built during the period, is still wrapped with galvanized steel sheets. Wooden strips cover the joints, creating wall panels. *Sawali* or plaited bamboo strips hide the interior walls.

During World War I, 160 German prisoners of war were interned at Dormitory 4 and the mess hall (now SM City).

WW II survivor

After the carpet bombing of Baguio by the US Army Air Corps in March 1945, only a few structures remained.

Many survivors remember having sought refuge there. Not only was Dormitory 4's location hard to target, it was also the only place that had running water after the aerial attacks.

All these years, the obscure building has eluded the attention of city officials. It does not even bear a historical marker.

Will the DENR support efforts to save the heritage building or will Baguio lose another reminder of its rich history? Casa Vallejo can still be restored, developed as a historical-photographic museum, and become a key venue in time for Baguio's centennial celebration in 2009.

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Dinky: Lozano complaint manipulated from Day 1

From page A1

claim the Chief Executive has steadfastly denied.

The President's June 27 confession sparked calls for her resignation. The demands reached fever pitch when Soliman joined six other Cabinet secretaries and four Palace officials—collectively called the Hyatt 10—in quitting about a week later and adding their voices to the resign chorus.

A coincidence?

"Was it a coincidence that Attorney Lozano filed his impeachment complaint on the morning of June 27, and in the evening of the same day, (the President) made her 'I'm Sorry' speech on the Garci tapes?" said former Education Secretary Florencio Abad.

"Or was the weak and possibly defective-in-form Lozano complaint part of a grand conspiracy to frustrate and preclude the filing of an honest-to-goodness impeachment complaint that would arise from the public admission made by the President on the Garci tapes?" said Abad, a member of the Hyatt 10.

Abad said that if this were the case, this must be the reason Ms Arroyo's allies in the House had adopted a "very restrictive and narrow implementation of the impeachment rules and the Constitution."

NO GRAY area here. For the "Hyatt 10" (minus 4) lineup, it's either black or white, they declare during their press conference on Wednesday a few hours before the start of the impeachment hearings in the House. From left, ex-presidential adviser on the peace process Ging Deles, ex-DepEd Secretary Florencio Abad, ex-DSWD Secretary Dinky Soliman, ex-BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno, ex-chair of the National Anti-Poverty Commission Imelda Nicolas and ex-Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima. REM ZAMORA

It was unclear if Lozano himself was part of the alleged impeachment charade.

The 65-year-old Lozano burst into the Philippine political scene after the ouster of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986. He was a founder of the Marcos loyalist movement that mounted a futile effort to bring back the deposed leader from exile in Hawaii.

A supporter also of ousted President Joseph Estrada, Lozano had questioned in the Supreme Court in 2001 the legitimacy of Ms Arroyo taking over Malacañang. Lozano also joined the failed presidential campaign of the late movie star Fernando Poe Jr.

The question that is being asked now is: Is Lozano a willing conspirator or simply an ambulance-chasing lawyer and publicity hound who had fallen unwitting victim to what Soliman called a "deception."

Lozano denied he had "colluded" with Ms Arroyo. In an interview over dzMM radio, he said Soliman had betrayed the President and could not be a "trusted source" of information.

Marcoleta slammed Soliman's claim as "rubbish and baseless."

Claudio said he had no chance to talk privately to Ms Arroyo after her public act of contrition.

"Dinky and the other Cabinet members were all over her, giving her a bouquet and singing 'If We Hold On Together'," Claudio said. *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza and Christine O. Avendaño*

GMA POINT MEN Speaker Jose de Venecia and Rep. Prospero Nograles pay their respects to FPJ's widow. LYN RILLON

Gloria jokes . . .

From page A1

Over dinner hosted by Susan Roces on the eve of the justice committee's make-or-break vote on which of the three impeachment complaints was sufficient in form and substance, Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano exposed through jokes Malacañang's tactics to block the case.

Under the 'Saro'

"Behind every successful man is a persevering woman; that man is called under the *saya* (skirt). Today, behind every successful congressman is the Saro (Special Allotment Release Order). That congressman is called under the Saro," said Cayetano, spokesperson of proimpeachment legislators.

He was referring to reports that anti-impeachment members of the House of Representatives had been offered P25 million each for infrastructure projects in their respective districts in exchange for supporting Ms Arroyo.

Seriously, Cayetano also said: "This week we are going to prove this is not the best Congress that money can buy."

Cross pen

Roces, widow of Fernando Poe Jr., Ms Arroyo's closest rival in the 2004 presidential election, had hoped to fete all the 48 members of the House who signed the amended impeachment complaint, even preparing a Cross pen wrapped in *sinamay* (fabric made from abaca) tied with a peach ribbon for each signatory. A plastic peach fruit dangled from each package.

But a weekend announcement declaring Monday a public holiday upset the schedules of a number of lawmakers who were to attend the dinner, which was planned only on Friday.

"We really wanted all of us to be here, but some of us are still in the provinces because it's a holiday," South Cotabato Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio said.

The INQUIRER counted a total of 20 members of the House at the party, a majority of them party-list representatives.

Minority Leader Sorsogon Rep. Francis Escudero left early as he was running a fever, while those belonging to the Liberal Party asked to be excused as they were attending the birthday party of Sen. Francisco "Kiko" Pangilinan, an LP member, Ms Roces said.

Young Guns

The so-called "Young Guns"—Representatives Robert Ace Barbers, Gilbert Remulla, Edmund Reyes and Robert Jaworski Jr.—who decided to abandon the ruling coalition by signing the impeachment complaint last week, did not show up.

Their absence, however, inspired Cayetano to crack another joke.

"Every election must have its guns, goons and gold. Well, we have the young guns, but Malacañang still has the goons and gold," he said, eliciting chuckles from reporters.

Even the allegedly overpriced Northrail project, among the impeachable offenses in the amended complaint, did not escape Cayetano's ribbing. "It's actually obsolete technology sold like brand new to us. It's what you call *ukay-ukay* Northrail."

Ukay-ukay refers to used garments, footwear, bags and accessories, mostly from abroad.

Even Ms Roces, a former movie actress who used to star in romantic comedies, had her own one-liner.

Asked if she was expecting some surprises, she jested: "What kind of surprise? Like GMA joining us? Or JDV?"

TNT

Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano, too, had this joke: "Didn't you know that GMA and Garci are both TNTs? GMA is *tawag nang tawag* (calling and calling), while Garci is *tago nang tago* (hiding and hiding)."

Mariano was referring to Ms Arroyo's alleged telephone calls to members of the House to convince them not to sign the impeachment case.

Garci is the name that the President supposedly used when she called former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano in May 2004 allegedly to order him to rig the polls.

A wiretap of the telephone calls was made public on June 6, triggering massive calls for her resignation. Ms Arroyo apologized for making the calls, but maintained she won the election "fair and square."

The amended impeachment complaint filed by the opposition has yet to muster 79 signatures to send the case to the Senate for trial

Opposition in full force in and out of House

From page A1

question of whether the amended impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo was separate from lawyer Oliver Lozano's initial complaint, the crowd in the gallery booed and shouted: "Walkout! Walkout! Walkout!"

The proimpeachment lawmakers started streaming out. And the cynosure of all eyes, Susan Roces, rose from her gallery seat and was swiftly escorted to her car by her aides.

"Let us continue this in the streets," one of her aides said.

'Not for Sale'

But earlier in the day, shortly after the hearing started at 1 p.m., the widow of movie idol and 2004 opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr. was seen speaking amiably with Speaker Jose de Venecia.

De Venecia and House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles had gone up to the gallery to greet Poe's widow. When the two men came down, they were sporting proimpeachment buttons that said "Not for Sale."

"Ms Susan Roces and my sister-in-law Marichu Maceda pinned one on me," a beaming De Venecia said.

Roces herself had on a green sticker saying "Truth, Justice, Impeach," while proimpeachment lawmakers wore peach ribbons.

De Venecia said he and Nograles were "agents of reconciliation" and "had always been pushing for national unity and how we can lift up our nation instead of bringing it down."

He denied that the majority had decided to kill the impeachment complaint yesterday, and said the voting was expected next week.

"That's a false alarm. That is not right," he said. "Please tell the Filipino people the truth. We will have the series of voting here. There is no intention here to kill it today (Tuesday)."

The other personalities present were Novaliches Bishop Antonio Tobias, former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, former Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita "Ging" Deles, actor Pen Medina, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Renato Constantino Jr., lawyer Demaree Raval, Fr. Robert Reyes and opposition document expert Segundo Tabayoyong.

Mass and march

In the morning, thousands of protesters, including nuns and priests as well as activists wearing monkey masks, marched to the Batasang Pambansa complex in Quezon City to denounce an alleged plan by Ms Arroyo's allies in the House to junk the impeachment charges against her.

Earlier in the day at the St. Peter Parish Church, to the stirring strains of "Pag-ibig sa Tinubuang Lupa," Bishop Tobias gave communion to those professing love for truth and fighting to keep the impeachment process alive.

Among those who attended the "Holy Mass for the Nation" officiated by the bishop were Roces and a number of proimpeachment lawmakers.

Tobias said the people were "getting upset" by the supposed attempts to squelch the truth about allegations that Ms Arroyo had ordered the rigging of the 2004 presidential election.

"The truth will come out. The people are not fools. They have their own judgment of what is right or wrong," the bishop told churchgoers.

He called on the President to "listen to the grievances of the people," and added: "It requires statesmanship to really respond to the questions at the back of the people's minds."

At the church door after the Mass, Tobias led an interfaith prayer for truth and justice with Muslim and Protestant leaders.

The assembly, led by Tobias, Fr. Jose Dizon of the Gloria Step Down Movement and Church workers, then marched along Commonwealth Avenue and Batasan Road, chanting slogans and waving streamers.

The activists in monkey masks carried placards that read: "Impeach Gloria! No more monkey business."

Police estimated the crowd at 2,500, but organizers said it was closer to 3,000.

'September storm'

Renato Reyes, secretary general of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said opposition groups were bracing for the worst in light of speculations that the impeachment proceedings would come to a halt this week.

He said activists would take a new tack by going back to the streets, as the legislators appeared unable to bring the protracted debate to a satisfactory close.

"Expect a September storm next month, as we intensify protest actions that will go as far as New York," Reyes said.

"The overwhelming majority of Filipinos are demanding that the truth be heard. To kill the impeachment complaint is to kill the truth," Fr. Dizon said.

"The administration has been killing us softly and slowly with their shameless maneuvers in Congress," he said.

But even if Ms Arroyo survives the impeachment process, it is doubtful that she will recover because public opinion is now against her, Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran said.

"Unless she declares martial law and unleashes the full power of the military against a restive public, she will not survive the recent crisis," Beltran said.

CAMPAIGN FOR PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY (CPA)

July 22, 2005

Atty. RICARDO ROMULO
Chairman
The Makati Business Club (MBC)
Makati Exchange Building, Ayala Avenue
Makati City, Metro Manila

Dear Atty. ROMULO:

We admire your courage, and that of your Executive Director, Guillermo Luz in declaring your call for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to resign over alleged election fraud and jueteng scandal, though we understand, that you did not have the support of the majority members of the Makati Business Club. For that, we salute you, Mr. Luz and the rest of the Zobel de Ayala clan who supported your move.

Indeed, this militant stand should be a necessary component among our business and political leaders in these trying times. Political leaders, because they are the ones responsible in making sure that our government serves the best interest of our people. Business leaders in turn, support a government through prompt and honest payments of taxes while ensuring that public funds are not squandered nor plundered by government officials.

It is in this light that the **Campaign for Public Accountability (CPA)** brings to your attention the long-delayed P 662 million plunder cases against Mayor Jejomar C. Binay, his wife Elenita and six other officials in the Office of the Ombudsman. Mayor Binay as you know, is the Chairman of the United Opposition and chief organizer of the Makati rallies seeking the ouster of President Arroyo.

Last Tuesday, July 12, we filed an **"Urgent Motion to Resolve"** these cases in our effort to find justice for our people and the big taxpayers of the country, most of whom are members of the Makati Business Club.

As recommended in the Audit Report of the Commission on Audit (COA) dated April 19, 2002, we filed cases of plunder against Makati Mayor Jejomar C. Binay, his wife, former mayor Elenita and seven other officials on August 20, 2003 for ghost deliveries, gross overpricing and falsification of documents in the anomalous purchase of hospital equipment and supplies for the Ospital ng Makati involving P430.2 million.

Again, on the strength of another COA Audit Report dated September 24, 2002, we filed cases of plunder, estafa, misappropriation of public funds and grave misconduct against Binay, his wife, former Mayor Elenita Binay and six other officials for rigged bidding, falsification of public documents and gross overpricing in the delivery and installation of office furniture and partitions for the new Makati City Hall building in the amount of P231.5 million.

These cases, numbered OMB-C-C-04-0023-A and OMB-C-A-04-0031-A, are still pending and awaiting resolution at the Office of the Ombudsman for almost two (2) years now. This is the reason why, we filed a **Motion to Resolve** last July 12, for fear of a 'white-wash' once again, by some corrupt officials in the Office of the Ombudsman.

Accordingly, we respectfully invite the Makati Business Club to support and/or join our crusade for justice and good government right here in the City of Makati where most if not all of your tax paying members are based. The P662 million squandered and the many more millions plundered in the City are mostly their hard-earned tax payments.

It is therefore, in our view, the concern of the Makati Business Club, most specifically you Atty. Romulo as Chairman, and that of Mr. Guillermo Luz as Executive Director, to protect public funds and ensure that they are disbursed and spent judiciously for public good and to the best interest of the people in Makati. Together, we must make sure that the City government of Makati is run by officials of utmost honesty and integrity with strict adherence to the constitutional provision that "public office is a public trust".

Together, we can make sure that freedom and justice in the city would prevail, with full guarantees that critics and those residents in disagreement with the Mayor are free from terror, threats, harassments and intimidations. Together, we can make Makati more responsive to needs of the poor and a better place to live in for all.

Please join us in our shout that, **"justice delayed, is justice denied"** and urge Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo to perform his constitutional obligation to resolve the plunder cases against Mayor Binay, his wife Elenita and other co-respondents, send them to jail, put an end to the conjugal dictatorship and render justice to the tax payers and the people of Makati.

We shall expect you to protect the interest of the Makati Business Club by making a principled and determined stand against corruption, **first in Makati,** before anywhere else, and join us in our crusade for transparency, accountability and good government.

Then finally, we say, **let those with clean hands and those without crime, make the first shout for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to resign.**

Thank you.

BOBBY BRILLANTE
Convenor
Campaign for Public Accountability (CPA)
President, Kalayaan Foundation, Inc.

DIMAS PUNDATO
Chairman
MNLF Reformist Group
for Good Government

WENG ESTRELLA
President
National Association of Corruption
Prevention Units (NACPU)

Atty. NAPOLEON MALIMAS
Chairman
Union of Business and Professionals
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ADVT

GMA foes stage walkout

From page A1

nated justice committee was unperturbed. It resumed the hearing less than two hours later and proceeded to vote on whether the opposition-amended complaint should be treated as separate from the original case filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano.

Except for Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin and Bataan Rep. Antonio Roman, the rest of the 54 administration lawmakers who were left in the committee voted to treat the July 25 opposition complaint as a separate case—a possible prelude to its dismissal.

The hearing was formally adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

'Sham' proceedings

Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers had wanted the committee not to proceed with the voting on which of the three complaints should be recognized because of "developments" earlier yesterday.

He was referring to the claim made by resigned Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman that it was Ms Arroyo who had ordered the endorsement of the original impeachment complaint filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano. *(See story on Page A1)*

"I do not wish to go against the wisdom of the chair. But these developments [show] that it's completely useless and illogical for this chamber to [deliberate] on an issue that's not in existence," Barbers said.

He warned that pursuing a vote would make the proceedings a "sham."

But Datumanong ruled that since no one from the opposition was willing to make a summation of the arguments, he considered the debate "terminated."

Barbers protested: "We are fooling ourselves here."

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño moved for an adjournment of the hearing but was ignored.

It was then that the proimpeachment lawmakers walked out.

Guingona said Barbers had wanted to deliver a "very explosive" privilege speech.

In Malacañang, Presidential Management Staff chief Rigoberto Tiglao dismissed the proimpeachment lawmakers' walkout as a "planned tantrum."

"They can't convince anybody else except themselves," Tiglao said, adding that it was "obvious" there was a link between the walkout and the news conference held by Soliman and company earlier yesterday.

"Theatrics, as they've run out of arguments. They've thrown to the wastebasket the processes of Congress of which they are sworn members," Tiglao said in a text message.

But South Cotabato Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio said the opposition did not plan the walkout.

"We were carried away by our emotions," she said. "It's saddening, it's revolting ... because there are too many issues to be discussed. Why are they forcing us to accept these prejudicial questions that we believe are not needed? What the people are asking for is the whole truth."

Ms Arroyo's impeachment lawyer Romulo Makalintal described the walkout as a desperate move for a losing cause.

"What they did has no impact on the proceedings because the ball is with ... Datumanong and we trust him to handle the situation well," Makalintal said in a phone interview with reporters.

He added: "We want [the House] to [go on] with the process, continue the vote, and ... Datumanong will take care of everything. We will prove that we have a strong case.

"...Datumanong was right in his decision because you can't summon Dinky only because she said something about Secretary [Gabriel] Claudio. That is not part of the impeachment proceedings."

Makalintal, who was monitoring the justice committee hearing on TV, said the opposition walkout had left a bad taste in his mouth.

"It's like they want to cause chaos in the process because they know that their case is weak because they have no evidence, which is why they didn't get 79 votes," he said, adding:

"Since all of them are hotheaded, next time they should just put their views in a position paper so that they won't talk or engage in a debate anymore."

'Bastardized process'

After a caucus, Marinduque Rep. Edmund Reyes announced that the impeachment team had decided to boycott the committee proceedings but not the entire impeachment process.

He said that instead of being party to a "bastardized process," the team would concentrate on getting the 79 signatures in the coming days.

With the required signatures, he said, they would go straight to the plenary to ask the entire House to constitute the amended complaint into Articles of Impeachment that would be sent to the Senate for trial.

Reyes, who served as prosecutor in Estrada's impeachment trial, said what was happening in the House had also occurred during the 2000 hearings.

"See you in the Senate," said Akbayan Rep. Rissa Hontiveros-Baraquel.

Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza said: "We will not go back until they stop obstructing justice and barring us from presenting evidence. This is the only means that will show that the complaint is valid. We will not participate in this foolishness."

"The Senate is our last hope," said Cibac Rep. Joel Villanueva.

'Zombie-like'

But even if the House manages to kill the impeachment case against the President, it will "rise like a zombie" until she bows out of office in 2010, according to Sen. Ralph Recto.

"Do you think it will go away? No, impeachment is here to stay," the administration senator said earlier in the day.

Recto said the impeachment issue would be resurrected every year as regularly as the President's State of the Nation Address: "There will be a round two, a round three, and so on. This political drama will have its annual sequels."

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, an ardent ally of Ms Arroyo's, batted for the dismissal of the impeachment complaints.

She said the House justice committee had two legal grounds for dismissing the Lozano and the amended complaints—insufficiency in form and substance.

"The original complaint is insufficient in substance because it alleges an offense which is not impeachable. The amended complaints are insufficient in form because they introduce new causes of action, which is prohibited by the rules of court," she said.

But Sen. Mar Roxas cautioned against the suppression of the complaints.

"The handlers of the President in the House should take care not to bulldoze the impeachment," he said. "The conclusion will be that the truth will not be known. The people want to know what happened, so if the truth cannot be heard, then what happened these past two months would have been a *moro-moro* and it will affect the credibility of the government."

All's fair

In Environment Secretary Michael Defensor's opinion, the proimpeachment lawmakers should know by now that all is fair in war.

He said this was a reality that he, too, had to face when he was gathering signatures for the impeachment complaint against Estrada.

"That is something that we have to accept, something that we have to realize.... It would have to be on the best judgment of every congressman to weigh whether they would sign or not sign [the complaint], based on the national interest or the interest of their constituency," Defensor said at a press conference.

But while he stopped short of saying that Malacañang was pulling out all the stops to quash the impeachment bid, he said he was "very confident" that the issue would be out of the way by the time the President flies to New York for the UN Summit in September.

With reports from Philip C. Tubeza, Christine O. Avendaño, Gil Cabacungan Jr., Juliet Labog-Javellana and Blanche S. Rivera

Lozano filed impeach rap in 2000 vs GMA

By Michael Lim Ubac

FIVE years ago, when she was still vice president, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo also faced an impeachment complaint.

Then, she was charged with the same impeachable offenses she is facing now in the Lower House—culpable violation of the Constitution and/or betrayal of public trust.

Curiously, that 2000 case was filed by one of the complainants in the present impeachment proceedings against her—lawyer Oliver Lozano.

The opposition now believes that Lozano is a "loose cannon" of Ms Arroyo.

Calling the attention of the House justice committee yesterday, Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales said this information was relevant to the current proceedings because Lozano was also involved in the present case.

It was Lozano who on June 27 filed the first of three impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo. Administration lawmakers now say Lozano's action has effectively barred the filing of the two other complaints.

"I'm worried about this," said Rosales, waving a copy of the 2000 complaint. That complaint was endorsed by Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, an Arroyo defender in the current case.

Rosales was surprised to learn that the first complaint was verified, unlike the June 27 Lozano complaint.

"Is this a modus operandi of the administration to preempt the filing of a stronger case? Is this not a modus operandi tantamount to obstruction of justice?" she asked, noting the majority's claim yesterday that the present Lozano complaint did not bear any verification letter.

In the 2000 complaint, Lozano said Ms Arroyo should be impeached for allegedly plotting with the opposition to unseat then President Joseph Estrada, who was at the time facing an impeachment complaint in the House.

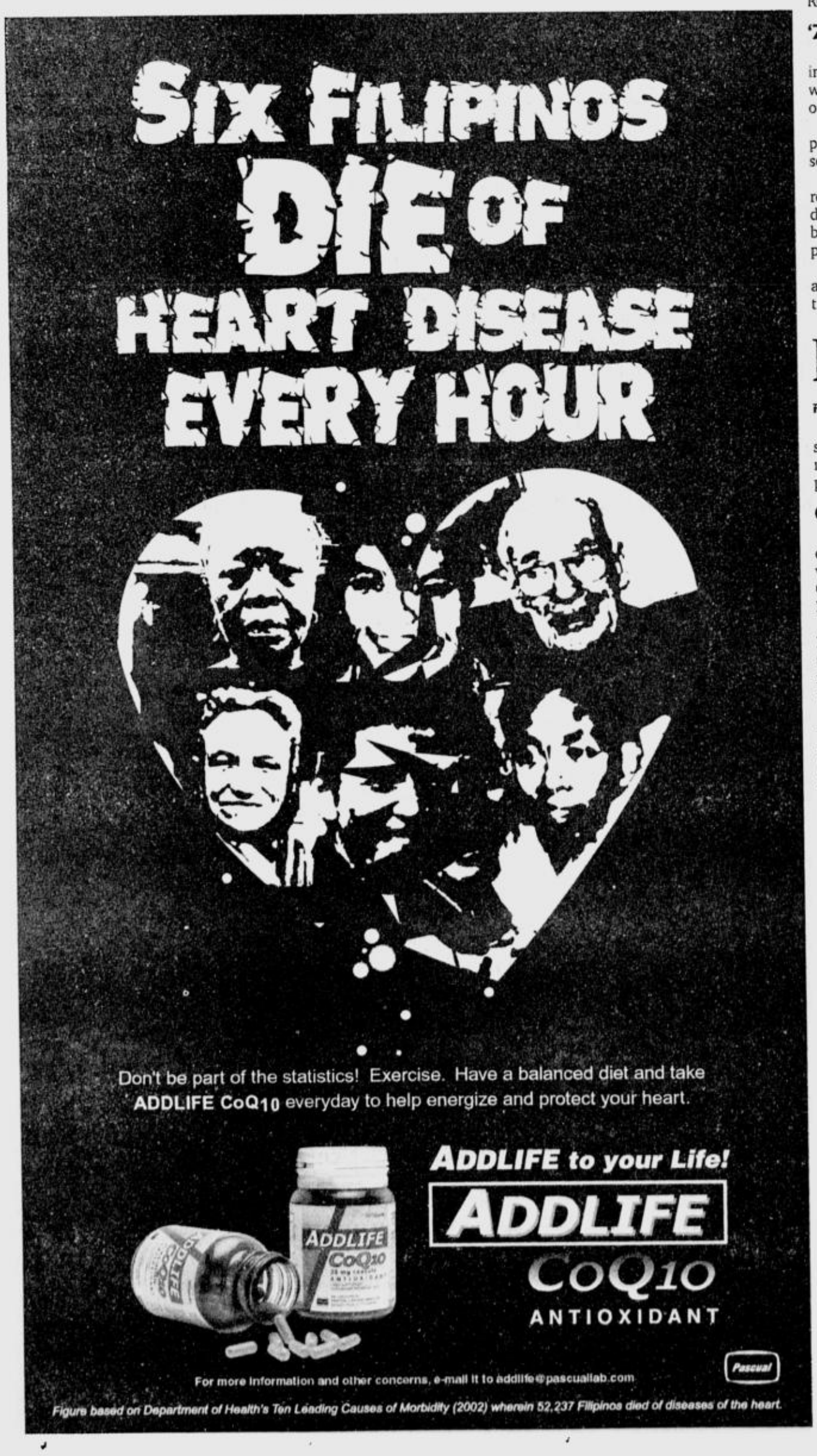
Bishop Cruz: It's moral issue

ARCHBISHOP Oscar Cruz said lawmakers should not lose sight of the fact that the issue against Ms Macapagal-Arroyo was basically moral.

"To consider impeachment merely as a political exercise is to disregard the intent and spirit of the law," Cruz said in a statement. "To think that impeaching no less than a President is merely a showdown of partisan interests is to convert the serious to the ridiculous."

Cruz described as "highly charged moral issues" accusations that Ms Arroyo had stolen the presidency, as suggested by her purported tapped conversations with ex-Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

"To hide the truth, to cover the fact, to forward falsehood are all basically immoral [acts] even if done by a key political figure," he said. ***Christian V. Esguerra***



Rep. Villar makes 49 ...

From page A1

stood at 49 with Villar's endorsement, the total number of lawmakers who had signified support for impeachment had reached 72 or 73.

Only single digits needed

"We now only need single digits. While officially, there are 49 signatures, Darlene has 10 while we are talking to 10 to 15 others," Cayetano said, referring to South Cotabato Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio.

"We're working on six or seven votes. With Representative Villar's influence and integrity, many more would follow. Once we are near 79, we'll take them to one room for them to sign," he added.

In a statement explaining her move, Villar said: "I believe that this is what is fair for everyone and what is best for our country. The President will have her day in court—a chance to defend herself and perhaps even prove her innocence."

Pillar of Congress

"The members of the minority will be given the opportunity to substantiate their allegations about the impeachable offenses of the President," she said.

Villar added that, "most importantly, the Filipino people ... deserve to know nothing less than the truth."

Villar was described by Cayetano as a "pillar of Congress" who could convince other lady lawmakers to sign the complaint.

Who are they?

NP Rep. Gilbert Remulla said other Nacionalista members had signed the complaint but he refused to identify them.

On paper, only 48 House members had actually endorsed the amended impeachment complaint, before Villar's endorsement.

For his part, Agusan del Sur Rep. Rodolfo Plaza put the figure of those backing the impeachment complaint at 74, only five votes shy of the 79 signatures needed to transmit the impeachment case to the Senate for trial.

Big question

With the NP possibly siding with the minority, the next question is: How will the Nationalist People's Coalition vote? Whose side is NPC chair emeritus Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco on?

If Tarlac Rep. Gilbert Teodoro is to be believed, his uncle and his party would not formally take sides in the political conflict.

He said it was untrue that going against Ms Arroyo would be suicidal for Cojuangco, who is facing court battles over the controversial coco levy funds.

"We have no party stand. *Kanya-kanya* 'to (To each his own). The party has not convened a general meeting since July 2004," Teodoro told the INQUIRER.

He said Cojuangco had taken a hands-off stance on the political controversy, allowing NPC members to vote according to their consciences.

"He will not say one way or the other but is content with running his businesses," Teodoro said.

Crucial role

Teodoro, however, agreed that the NPC could play a crucial role in providing needed signatures to the impeachment process.

Teodoro admitted that the 29 NPC members in the House who were still with the majority would stick with the ruling coalition. The remaining seven members, led by House Minority Leader Francis Escudero, had already signed the complaint.

"That's how I feel," said Teodoro, explaining that NPC's Escudero and Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon Jr. were on the "extreme opposite sides" of the pole.

"As a party, we will not take a stand as far as I know. We will wait for the committee report (on the impeachment complaint)," he said.

Teodoro said the hands-off stance taken by his uncle was an "offshoot" of the 2004 presidential election in which the party was divided—30 percent supported opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. and 70 percent went for Ms Arroyo.

NPC reluctance

The NPC reluctance to join the fray also stemmed from the failed impeachment drive against Chief Justice Hilario Davide in 2003 that was spearheaded by the party, he said.

Cojuangco, who unsuccessfully ran for President in 1992, supported then Vice President Joseph Estrada in the 1998 presidential derby.

Antonino-Custodio said the proimpeachment camp considered Alagad Rep. Rodante Marcoleta's signature to be part of the amended complaint although he had not signed it.

Marcoleta signed only the original complaint filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano and has refused to sign the amended complaint since the opposition did not consult him before it was filed.

"We also have other individual signatories but we are not divulging their identities since the administration is vindictive. We would only name them once we are sure that we got the 79 votes," Antonino-Custodio said.

Extra school day for Muslim pupils

By Jocelyn R. Uy

MUSLIM students will spend an extra day in school with the recent launch of the Madrasah curriculum in Taguig City.

But Silangan Elementary School principal Remedios Antonio said the new curriculum was welcomed by parents.

"They have been waiting for it," Antonio said yesterday.

The Silangan Elementary School is one of several in Metro Manila where the Madrasah curriculum is implemented as mandated by Department of Education Order No. 51 issued by former Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus.

The other schools are in parts of Manila, Pasay, Parañaque and Quezon cities with large Muslim communities.

The Madrasah curriculum will be taught by 51 Muslim asatidz (teachers) in English. It focuses on the Arabic language and Islamic values.

In Taguig City, the Madrasah was also implemented Aug. 27 at the RP Cruz Elementary School, Cardones Elementary School, Tenement Elementary School and the Silangan 1 Elementary School (Annex). Meanwhile, five Muslim asatidz from the city were among the top 10 graduates of the 22-day, live-in training program in Marikina City on "Beginning English and Teaching Strategies for Asatidz." Salima Guimba was valedictorian; Faidah Omar, salutatorian; Zoraida Akbara, in third place; and Haeifah Bautista and Aimahil Loberiano in seventh and ninth places, respectively.

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Xavierville to test bike lane

By Tarra V. Quismundo

SET OFF by pink and white markings, a bike lane is scheduled to open along Xavierville Avenue in Quezon City on Sept. 17 as the pilot pedal way under the walk and bike lanes project of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

The Xavierville bike lane would run straight through Xavierville Avenue from its intersection with Katipunan Avenue, through Chico Street, right to Anonas Street, then left to K-6th street in East Kamias, where the lane ends at the street's intersection with Kalayaan Avenue. "The avenue is roughly 13 meters wide, so even if we use a portion of it, there would still be four lanes for vehicular traffic," said Ramon Ona, head of the MMDA's Traffic Engineering Center.

The project was renamed from the Metro Bike and Pedal Ways project to Metro Padyakan, from the Filipino word *padyak* meaning "to pedal." It was seen as a long-term solution for rising transportation costs that have burdened Metro Manila commuters and motorists.

Del Pilar marker unveiled

THE MANILA government yesterday emphasized the importance of media as it unveiled a marker in honor of the 19th century journalist and propagandist Marcelo H. Del Pilar.

The event coincided with the 155th birth anniversary of the revolutionary hero, a prominent figure in the Propaganda Movement that helped lay the groundwork for the Philippine Revolution against Spain in 1896.

A prolific writer, Del Pilar used the pseudonym "Plaridel," and is acknowledged as the "hero of Philippine journalism." A selfless propagandist, Del Pilar was at the helm of the reformist newspaper La Solidaridad that helped ignite libertarian ideas in the 1890s.

To mark the event, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza led city officials in a wreath-laying rites at the Plaridel Monument in Malate's Paraiso ng Batang Maynila. This was followed by the unveiling of the marker in Plaza Miranda, Quiapo. *Tina G. Santos*

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METROBRIEFS

Expensive trip

A SPORTS car rammed into a concrete barrier while it was plying the southbound lane of the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) before dawn yesterday. Roy Nathaniel Bunag was driving a Porsche car (plate number XPR-707) with Ricardo Sanchez at 3:24 a.m. yesterday when they suddenly crashed into a barrier that separated the north and the southbound lane of the SLEX. The accident happened in front of the Villamor Golf Course in Pasay City, traffic police said. Case investigator P03 Arthur Cortez said tests would determine whether or not the driver was drunk when the accident occurred. Bunag and Sanchez were brought to the hospital where they were treated for minor injuries. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

SSC has new president

LEVISTE

SR. ANGELICA Leviste, OSB, will be formally installed as the 16th president of St. Scholastica's College (SSC) today. The ceremony will be part of the Holy Mass, which begins at 2 p.m. at St. Cecilla's Hall, to be presided by Rt. Rev. Abbot Tarciso Ma. H. Narciso, OSB. A reception will follow at the Sr. Kunlberta Strathmann Hall. The processional and recessional will feature the SSC Chamber Orchestra and the School of Music Chorus Class. The investiture rites will be administered by Executive Director Dr. William C. Medrano of the Commission on Higher Education; Ricardo J. Romulo, Chair of the SSC Board of Trustees; and Mother Prioress Mary John Mananzan, OSB. Sr. Angelica was also SSC president in 1992-1993. She chose "100 Years of Scholastican Education: Excellence as our Benedictine Service to the Community" as the SSC theme for this year and the next. Her reappointment as president during the centenary of the Priory is an auspicious one, especially since she was the Prioress of the Manila Priory when the Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing celebrated the centennial of its foundation in 1985.

Free medical tests for Torres High alumni

PROCOPIO S. Beltran, Jr., president of Torres High School Alumni Class 1956, is calling on all alumni and former teachers to avail of the free medical services of Unlad Kalinga in the form of free x-ray, ECG, full blood examinations and medical consultation on Sept. 3, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the alumni Coordinating Center, Juan Luna Street corner Hermosa Street, Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila. The free medical examinations and consultations offered by Unlad Kalinga will start the Golden Jubilee celebration of THS Class 1956 which will be celebrated in Subic, Olongapo City from Feb. 4 to 5, 2006. For more details, alumni and former teachers are requested to contact Mr. Beltran at the alumni Coordinating Center tel. no. 256-32-25, or at his residence at tel. no. 646-44-32. They may also contact Carmeling Castillo-Ortiz at tel. no. 255-19-70 or Patnubay Santos-Faustino at tel.no. 254-38-11 for other details regarding other activities for the Golden Jubilee.

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Special Events Schedule
AUGUST 31, 2005 Wednesday
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN Function Room A Forum on "The Leadership Challenge", Speaker: Mr. Dennis S. Ycasiano by University of the Philippines Library Science Alumni Association (UPLSAA)
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN Activity Area 1 Creating a Personalized Graffiti Pencil Pouch for Kids by The Thought Factory (TTF)
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN Playstreet - Story Telling (with admission fee)
10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. Activity Area 2 Basic Hair Cutting by Bagong Henerasyon Foundation, Inc. (BHFI)
10:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M. Function Room B Launching of Reader's Digest English Reading Program and English Learning Books by A-Z Direct Marketing, Inc.
1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. Function Room A Symposium on the State of Filipiniana Indigenous Materials by Philippine Association of Academic Research Libraries (PAARL)
1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. Playstreet - Clay Molding and Arts & Crafts (with admission fee)
1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. Activity Area 1 Transfer Printing on a Coin/Key Tray (TTF)
2:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. Function Room B "Computer Aided Instruction and Interactive Learning How to conduct a Virtual Lab Class" by IBC Infotech, Inc
2:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. Activity Area 2 Storytelling Session and Origami Workshop for Kids by Museo Pambata (MP)
4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M. WTC Lobby Opening Ceremonies
SEPTEMBER 1, 2005 Thursday
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN Function Room B Forum on "Promoting Effective Reading Skills. A Challenge to Librarians, Teachers and Students" by Philippine Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science (PATLS) & The Book Talk Society of the Philippines (BTSP
10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M. WTC Lobby Seminar and Book Launching. New Age Learning by Pearson Education, Resource Speaker: Ms. Barbara Field by C & E Publishing, Inc.
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN Activity Area 1 Preserving Memories on Photo Tiles (TTF)
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN Playstreet - Arts & Crafts (with admission fee)
10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. Activity Area 2 Reflexology Workshop (BHFI)
10:30 A.M. - 12:00 NN Function Room A Seminar: NBDB Efforts Towards Quality Filipino Books by National Book Development Board
1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. Function Room A Forum on Innovations and Strategy: "The Risk and Choice in Shaping User-Centered Libraries" Speaker: Mrs. Lourdes T. David, by Association of Special Libraries of the Philippines (ASLP)
1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. Playstreet - Story Telling and Arts & Crafts (with admission fee)
1:30 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. WTC Lobby Drawing Workshop for Kids with Mr. Noel Cabangon and Mr. Robert Alejandro by Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan (INK)
1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. Activity Area 1 Kiddie Art on Tiles (TTF)
2:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. Activity Area 2 Storytelling Session and Popped Fish-Making Workshop (MP)
3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. Function Room B Symposium on Copyright Law by Publishers' Representatives Organization of the Philippines (PROP)
3:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M. Function Room A Product Launching: National Geographic Kids Products by Asia/Pacific Circulation Exponents, Inc.
4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. WTC Lobby Fun Hats Rubber Foam Workshop (INK)
4:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M. Activity Area 1 Basic Animation by Mowalland Film Institute (MFI)}
5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. Activity Area 2 Basic Hair Cutting (BHFI)
5:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. Function Room A Seminar on "Direct Marketing (DM): Back to Basic and Beyond (Design for Booksellers)- Part I by Book Development Association of the Philippines (BDAP)
SEPTEMBER 2, 2005 Friday
10.00 A.M. - 12.00 NN Function Room A Forum on " Environmental Health", Speaker: Ms. Chinchin Gutierrez by Medical and Health Librarians Association of the Philippines (MAHLAP)
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN Function Room B Forum on "Ethical Issues and Concerns in Collection and Development Management" by Philippine Booksellers Association, Inc. & Philippine Librarians Association, Inc.
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN Activity Area 1 Designing Souvenirs for Weddings, Birthdays, and Other Occasions (TTF)
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN Playstreet - Clay Molding (with admission fee)
10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. Activity Area 2 Basic Hair Cutting (BHFI)
10:30 A.M. - 12:00 NN WTC Lobby The Making of Techniques in Digital Illustration (INK)
1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M Function Room A Symposium: Can a Reproduction Rights Organization (RRO) Curb Illegal Photocopying in the Philippines? by The International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organization & The Philippine Reproduction Rights Organization
1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. Function Room B Discover and Explore: "A Must Classroom Reality In Science Literacy" A product seminar/workshop for Discovery Channel School, Resource Speaker: Charmaine Nicdao-Ramos, by Verve Multi Media, Inc.
1:00 P.M - 5:00 P.M. Playstreet - Story Telling and Arts & Crafts (with admission fee)
1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. Activity Area 1 Turning Ordinary Prints Into Canvas Works of Art (TTF)
2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. WTC Lobby Balloon Art Workshop by Lollipop Safety Balloons Center (LSBC) Admission Fee: Php 25
2:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. Activity Area 2 Storytelling Session and Paper Bag Puppets-Making Workshop (MP)
4:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M. Function Room B Seminar on "Introduction to Singapore's Elementary Education Curriculum and Textbooks" by Edcrisch International, Inc.
4:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M. Activity Area 1 Basic Animation (MFI)
5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. WTC Lobby Portfolio Show (INK)
5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. Activity Area 2 Reflexology Workshop (BHFI)
5:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. Function Room A Seminar on "Direct Marketing (DM): Back to Basic and Beyond (Design for Booksellers)- Part 2 (BDAP)
6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. The Makati Skyline 2005 Grand Book Launch by OMF Literature, Inc.
SEPTEMBER 3, 2005 Saturday
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN Function Room A Book Launching: Learning to Live and Love, Learning to Love, Love @ Sex Pag-Usapan Natin, Educational Guidance in Human Love, The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality by Word & Life Publication
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN Activity Area 1 The Children's Library Story Telling Activity
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN Activity Area 2 Stone Printing: Paperweights and Desk Signs (TTF)
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN Playstreet - Story Telling and Bubble Demo (with admission fee)
10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M. WTC Lobby Science Fun Factory by Samahang Pisika ng Pilipinas Admission Fee: Php 25
1:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M. Activity Area 1 The Children's Library Storytelling Activity
1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. Function Room A Lego Early Childhood/HCA Seminar by Felta Multi-Media, Inc.
1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. Function Room B Book Launching: Nobela at Mga Maikling Kuwento ni Edgar Reyes, Introduction to Economic Botany Pythopharmacology-Phytotherapy by Dietmar J Rummel, Language Proficiency Training for Call Centers by C & E Publishing, Inc.
1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. Activity Area 2 Crystal Lamination: Trinket Boxes (TTF)
1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. Playstreet - Clay Molding and Arts & Crafts (with admission fee)
3:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. Activity Area 1 Lego Robotics Demonstration by Felta Multi-Media, Inc.
4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. Function Room A Dianetics Lecture by New Era Publications International Aps
4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. Function Room B Book Launching: ANI 31 Metaphors of Love (Talinghaga ng Pusa), GROOVY: The Colors of Paeta Abad in DVD by Cultural Center of the Philippines
4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. Activity Area 2 Hands-on-Activity (Discovery Channel Interactive) by Verve Multi Media, Inc.
5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. Activity Area 1 Reflexology Workshop (BHFI)
5:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. Activity Area 2 Basic Hair Cutting (BHFI)
6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. Function Room B Book Launching of "LEGACY: One Man to Another, Exhortations to the Men of Today from Over 50 Respected Christian Leaders and Influencers" by Church Strengthening Ministry
SEPTEMBER 4, 2005 Sunday
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN Activity Area 1 Crystallized Photo Frames and Magnetic Message Holders (TTF)
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN Playstreet - Story Telling and Bubble Demo (with admission fee)
10:00 A.M - 1:00 P.M. Activity Area 2 Basic Hair Cutting (BHFI)
10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M. WTC Lobby Science Fun Factory by Samahang Pisika ng Pilipinas Admission Fee: Php 25
1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. Activity Area 1 Print Lifting Images to Cotton Drink Coasters/ Mats (TTF)
1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. Playstreet - Clay Moulding, and Arts & Crafts (with admission fee)
2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. Function Room A Purpose of Life, Resurrection and hereafter in Islam according to Qur'an and Risale-I Nur by Eternal Publications Trading
2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. Activity Area 2 "Meditations & Music Reflections" Authors accompanied by invited musicians by Church Strengthening Ministry
4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. The Makati Skyline National Book Awards by Manila Critics Circle (by invitation only)
4:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M. Activity Area 1 Basic Animation (MFI)
5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. Activity Area 2 Reflexology Workshop (BHFI)
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Tapes presented vs Roldan at pre-trial

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FORMER congressman and actor Dennis Roldan, alleged mastermind in the kidnapping of a 3-year-old boy early this year, has 32 witnesses on his side.

But the prosecution pulled off a surprise in a pre-trial hearing at the Pasig City Regional Trial Court Branch 261 yesterday when it presented four audiotapes as evidence for marking.

Prosecution lawyers said the tapes contained alleged conversations between the boy's mother, Jeannie, and someone who had negotiated for the ransom payment. They refused to identify the negotiator.

Roger Yu, the boy's father, told the INQUIRER audio experts would identify the negotiator during the trial.

The tapes were marked as prosecution evidence during the pre-trial hearing yesterday morning. Judge Agnes Carpio called for a short recess for the prosecution and the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (PACER) to present the tapes.

Roldan, who se real name is Mitchell Gumabao, arrived from the Pasig City Jail with the others accused in the case: Noel San Andres, Rowena San Andres, Romeo Orcajada and Adrian Domingo .

Accused Octavio Garces, who had testified against Roldan, was also present. He had been detained at the Philippine National Police Custodial Center.

Suzette Wang, Roldan's alleged girlfriend, remains at large. Suspect

ROLDAN

Alberto Pagdanganan earlier turned state witness.

Roldan's lawyer Siegfrid Fortun questioned the offering of the tapes as evidence, saying the PACER had said earlier it had no surveillance tapes in its possession.

Prosecution lawyer Mario Ongkiko said the family had recorded the negotiations conducted on the telephone.

The boy was kidnapped on his way to school in Feb. 9 near the ATC Tower at the Ortigas Center in Pasig City. The kidnappers initially asked for P250 million from the victim's family. PACER operatives later rescued the victim on Feb. 20.

The prosecution's witnesses included members of the police teams that arrested Roldan and his co-accused, the boy's nanny, and one of his teachers. The trial will begin Sept. 20.

Roldan had entered a not guilty plea earlier. The actor also asked that he be allowed to post bail, saying the evidence against him was weak.

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Only 3 hours for air-con units in Pasig

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

PASIG City government employees can use air-conditioners for only three hours a day because of the looming energy crisis.

Office lights have to be turned off during lunch breaks. All local government offices must also reduce their electric, water and phone bills by 15 percent according to a memorandum on energy saving from Mayor Vicente Eusebio sent out yesterday.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had asked the public to save energy because of the rising oil prices.

Eusebio had already issued a memorandum on energy conservation two weeks ago, but most city hall employees seemed to have ignored the order.

For easy viewing

This time, the mayor had copies of the memorandum posted on doors of city hall offices. He said it was his "last warning" to employees.

Eusebio said he had created a group to monitor compliance.

Violators of the memorandum risk the cancellation of their allowances from the city government, the mayor added.

The memorandum said "air-conditioning units are to be opened (from) 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (and from) 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m." during work days and only if the bosses were around.

"It is hereby emphasized that if the city vice mayor, city councilors and department heads are out of office, the air-conditioning units shall be shut off," the memorandum said.

A quick survey of the offices at the city, hall, however, revealed the order was still not strictly observed.

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Cabagnot coming back to play

CABAGNOT

By Beth Celis

PEOPLE will get to see what the fuss was all about after all.

Burning wires and making good use of back channels, Alex Cabagnot's family finally got through to Sta. Lucia team manager and governor Buddy Encarnado and cleared up a lot of things regarding the controversial flight of the PBA's second pick overall in this year's rookie draft.

The telephone conversation ended on a promising note: Cabagnot is set to plane in next week to rejoin the Realtors.

"It was all a matter of miscommunication," Encarnado said. "There were so many things unclear to them which were clarified during the meeting, where I also got the chance to talk on the phone with Alex Sr. He said Alex Jr. was completely in the dark concerning the terms and conditions stipulated in the contract, but was being forced to sign by his agent."

Cabagnot was facing a Sta. Lucia-proposed lifetime ban when the controversy involving him took an unexpected twist.

Jackie Quintos, an uncle of the Hawaii-raised cager, managed to contact Encarnado through a former Ateneo classmate, Tom Clemente. Clemente, an executive of Sta. Lucia, arranged a dinner between Encarnado and Quintos at the Linden Suites in Pasig Monday night.

It was there that Encarnado was able to talk to the University of Hawaii-Hilo standout's father.

Also present during the meeting was Empie Cabagnot, the cager's aunt.

"[Empie Cabagnot] and Quintos were designated by Alex Sr. as his son's official representatives," Encarnado added.

Cabagnot is currently still in Hawaii arranging a return to his school to complete his units for a degree in Physical Education.

"[Alex Sr.] said he was elated that we had finally talked and that the air had been cleared," Encarnado narrated. "They didn't know that the contract was signed by [agent] Charlie Dy."

Encarnado gave Empie Cabagnot and Quintos a copy of the contract.

Dolphins battle Cards sans sacked coach

THE PHILIPPINE Christian U Dolphins' mental toughness will be put to test today in a crucial battle against the Mapua Cardinals in the NCAA basketball tournament.

The defending champions will be without head coach Junel Baculi, who will serve his one-game suspension during the 4 p.m. match at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The Dolphins, who tote a 9-3 card, and the Cardinals (8-4) are tightly contesting the second spot, which comes with the twice-to-beat advantage in the Final Four.

The fourth-running San Sebastian Stags (7-5) are also hoping to forge a playoff for the second spot by sweeping their remaining games, including the 2 p.m. tussle against the Letran Knights today.

STANDINGS	W	L
Letran	11	1
PCU	9	3
Mapua	8	4
SSC	7	5
Perpetual	6	8
St. Benilde	5	9
San Beda	4	10
JRU	2	12

GAMES TODAY (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
11:30 a.m.—Letran vs SSC (Jrs)
2 p.m.—Letran vs SSC (Srs)
4 p.m.—PCU vs Mapua (Srs)

The Knights (11-1) have already claimed the first semis bonus.

Last Monday, Baculi was slapped with a one-game suspension for his unsportsmanlike conduct during the Dolphins' 75-81 loss against the Stags.

Baculi was caught on television flashing a dirty finger after Dolphins forward Carlos Cecilia was charged with a foul in the third quarter. *Jasmine W. Payo*

PHILIPPINE Christian U star Gabby Espinas (right) will have to work doubly hard for the coach-less Dolphins. RYAN LIM

Culprit: BF's bike lane

WOMEN's football has put its foot down on the venue issue. Philippine Football Federation officials on Monday night decided to hold the competition at the PhilSports turf in Pasig City after negotiations with the Marikina city government fell apart. The PFF had asked for the extension of the Marikina Sports Complex turf to comply with international standards, but the city government refused to extend the pitch and destroy the bike lane built by former mayor Bayani Fernando.

* * *

WALLY Mendoza, the country's brightest hope for gold in fencing's sabre event, leaves for Leipzig, Germany, this week to battle the world's best in the world championship. Mendoza is hoping that the tough exposure will give him a morale boost when he clashes with rivals in the SEA Games set here from Nov. 27-Dec. 5. Mendoza won the sabre gold in the 2003 Vietnam SEAG and is looking at winning two more golds this year, counting the one in the team event. *Musong R. Castillo*

NBC cagers rip Koreans, zero in on title

HAAD TAI CITY, Thailand—The Philippines' NBC-Nature's Spring Selection moved within a game of sweeping the 9th Crown Prince Invitational basketball title Monday night by subduing South Korea's Donjuk University team, 92-77, at the Jirinakorn indoor stadium here.

The Filipinos were scheduled to play host Thailand last night in the championship game.

Undrafted 6-foot-7 PBA rookie Val Domingo came up with another double-double performance to power the Filipinos past the Korean Division 1 collegiate champions for their third straight triumph.

"Val carried us inside," said coach Al Solis. "Our defense limited the Koreans' outside shooting."

The Koreans averaged 15 triples in their first three games, but the Filipinos held them to nine.

The scores:

NBC 82—Domingo 18, Huelar 11, Tundag 10, Villamin 8, Kalaw 8, Almacin 7, Latoreno 6, Mangubat 6, Briones 4, Larong 2, Daa 2.

KOREA DONJUK 77—Chen 18, Choi 13, Lee 12, Oh 11, Jung 11, Park 6, Yoo 3, Park 2, Cho 1.

Quarters: 21-17, 41-44, 62-56, 82-77

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Public clamor won't make PBF accede to BAP in SEAG caging

By Musong R. Castillo

COME hell or high water, the Basketball Association of the Philippines will not get the chance to organize the cage competitions in the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

And, unless the international basketball federation (Fiba) recognizes the Philippine Basketball Federation in time for the SEAG, hoop action in the biennial games will not be held at all.

Not even a strong public clamor can make the PBF bend, even if shelving the cage competitions means that the Philippines will not have the chance to win the gold medal that truly counts.

"Out of respect to the Philippine Olympic Committee, the PBF will not accede," PBF president Mauricio "Moying" Martelino said yesterday in reaction to a statement made by former POC president Celso Dayrit that only the BAP can hold the basketball tournament in the Games.

"The POC has shown and given us the respect we deserve and it is but right that we do what the POC says," added Martelino. "Not even a public clamor will make us turn our backs on the POC."

Martelino said he agreed with everything that Dayrit had said in a report that appeared in the INQUIRER yesterday, except on one aspect.

Dayrit said that only the BAP can hold the basketball games since the controversial cage body is the only local caging entity duly recognized by the governing Fiba.

Martelino said Dayrit's opinion on that one is risky since only legitimate national sports associations can run tourneys as big as the SEAG tilt.

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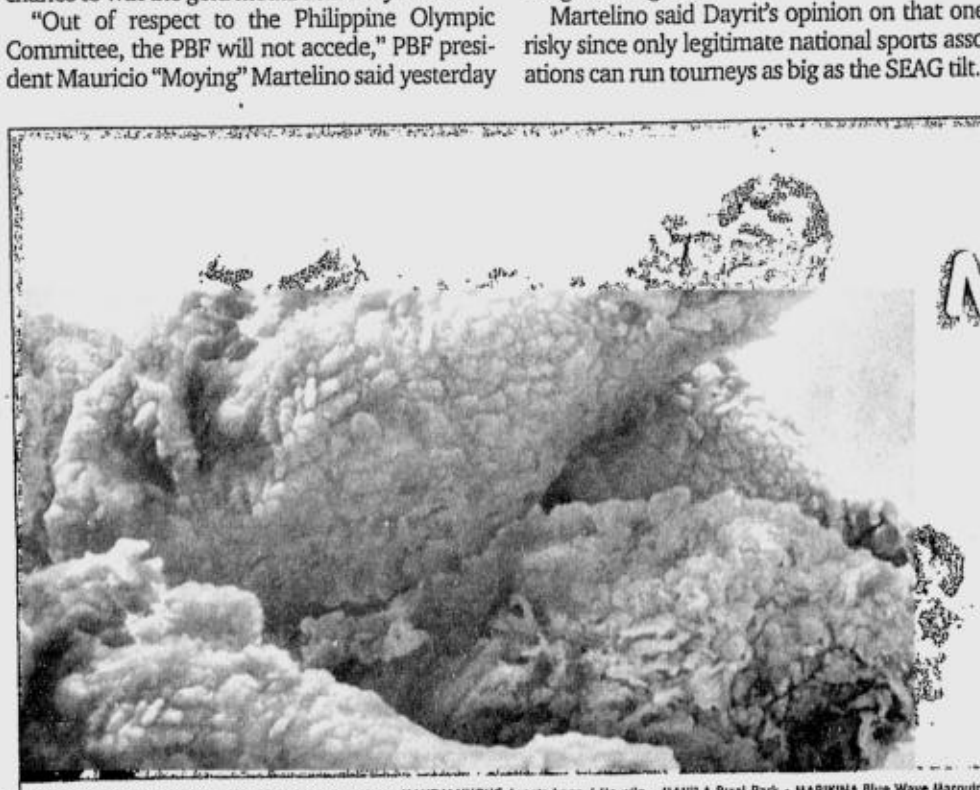

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Pacquiao, Morales get pre-fight hype

EVEN before leathers can be thrown in their respective tune-up bouts, pound-for-pound boxing icons Erik Morales and Manny Pacquiao will get the chance to hype up their planned rematch in March next year when they take part in an international telephone conference today from their respective training lairs.

Today's teleconference will be made available to the world media, which have been closely following both Morales and Pacquiao since their first encounter last March 19 which ended with the Mexican's victory on points.

Morales will hook up straight from his training facility in Mexico's Centro Ceremonial Otomi in the Otomi mountains, while Pacquiao will speak from the Wild Card Gym in Los Angeles.

Morales and Pacquiao are expected to talk about their respective fights on Sept. 10 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. Morales faces American ex-Olympian Zahir Raheem, while Pacquiao takes on Mexico's Hector Velazquez in the co-main event of the "Double Trouble" card.

Both fights will be aired by HBO.

Morales has been sparring against the likes of Jorge Solís, Julio Zárate, and Mike Clark at the high-altitude Otomi.

Pacquiao, meanwhile, has been a virtual recluse after trainer Freddie Roach decided not to allow hangers-on at his Wild Card gym.

Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

PACQUIAO

Eastridge powers on; Southwoods gains last 4

MANILA Southwoods banked on the odd pairing of Teody Pascual and Benjie Sarmiento to pull through while a fired-up Eastridge proved just too strong for the enemy as the two squads hacked out contrasting victories over the weekend and barged into the semifinals of the Johnnie Walker-Federation Golf League.

Pascual and Sarmiento defeated Pepot Iñigo and Patrick Tsai on the second hole of a sudden-death playoff in the high-low match to deliver the killer blows for a Southwoods team that stayed alive on the first playoff hole thanks to crucial breaks.

Playing the 18th of Riviera's Langer course, Sarmiento rescued par from a tough lie. After Tsai and Pascual got their pars, Iñigo blew Riviera's winning chance by three-putting from 45 feet.

Returning to the hole, Southwoods pounced on wayward approaches by the Riviera players that led to double-bogeys. Pascual and Sarmiento settled the issue by getting into the green in three for bogeys.

Southwoods posted a 3-1 victory at home Saturday but the Rivierans forged the playoff with a similar 3-1 win in their hosting turn the next day.

Eastridge, meanwhile, blanked Wack Wack, 4-0, at home and followed it up with an impressive 3-1 decision in its visit to the Mandaluyong club.

The pairings of Erwin Temena-Ted Runes, Chino Raymundo-Park Sang Ho, Koji Yasuma-Hiroshi Koyanagi and Joey Lerma-Andrei Cordero fashioned the 4-0 rout, while Tito Eusebio teamed up with Lerma in high-low, Yasuma paired with Koyanagi in aggregate and Raymundo played with Park in delivering the clinchers.

Southwoods battles defending champion and eliminations leader Royal Northwoods, while Eastridge tackles Forest Hills in the semifinals this weekend with the winners clashing for the title.

NCAA-South meet kicks off Saturday

THE SEVENTH season of the National Collegiate Athletic Association-South opens at the University of Perpetual Help-Laguna gym in Biñan on Saturday with all its founding members back in harness.

Theme of the 2005-2006 season of NCAA-South is "One Mind...One Body...One Soul," host UPH-Laguna president Dr. Karen Tamayo told yesterday's Philippine Sportswriters Association forum at the Pantalan Restaurant in Manila.

"This is our theme because two of our charter members which had been inactive are back," said Tamayo.

Founding members of NCAA-South are Colegio San Juan de Letran Calamba, Philippine Christian University Dasmariñas, San Beda College-Alabang and UPH-Laguna.

Joining them are De La Salle University-Lipa, Don Bosco Technical College, San Pablo Colleges, Lyceum Batangas and San Sebastian College Recoletos-Cavite.

Laguna Gov. Ningning Lazaro and Vice Gov. Edwin Olivarez have been invited to grace the 3 p.m. opening ceremonies on Saturday.

Flexible screening for RP's SEAG bets

ATHLETES who have had no experience competing internationally need not worry —they, too, have a shot at making the Philippine team that will see action in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games scheduled Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

ANGPING

While the guidelines require athletes to have international experience, the screening committee will adopt a "very flexible attitude" that would give an inexperienced but promising athlete the chance to compete in the SEA Games.

Harry Angping, president of the national softball association who is also in charge of screening the members of the RP delegation, made the announcement during yesterday's PSA Forum at the Pantalan Restaurant in Manila.

Under the guidelines, an athlete should have won at least a bronze medal in the 2003 Vietnam SEA Games or should have finished in the top 10 of their respective fields in previous World or Asian championships.

"But we're being flexible in that forthcoming athletes who have not yet competed in any international event can still make it to the RP team," said Angping.

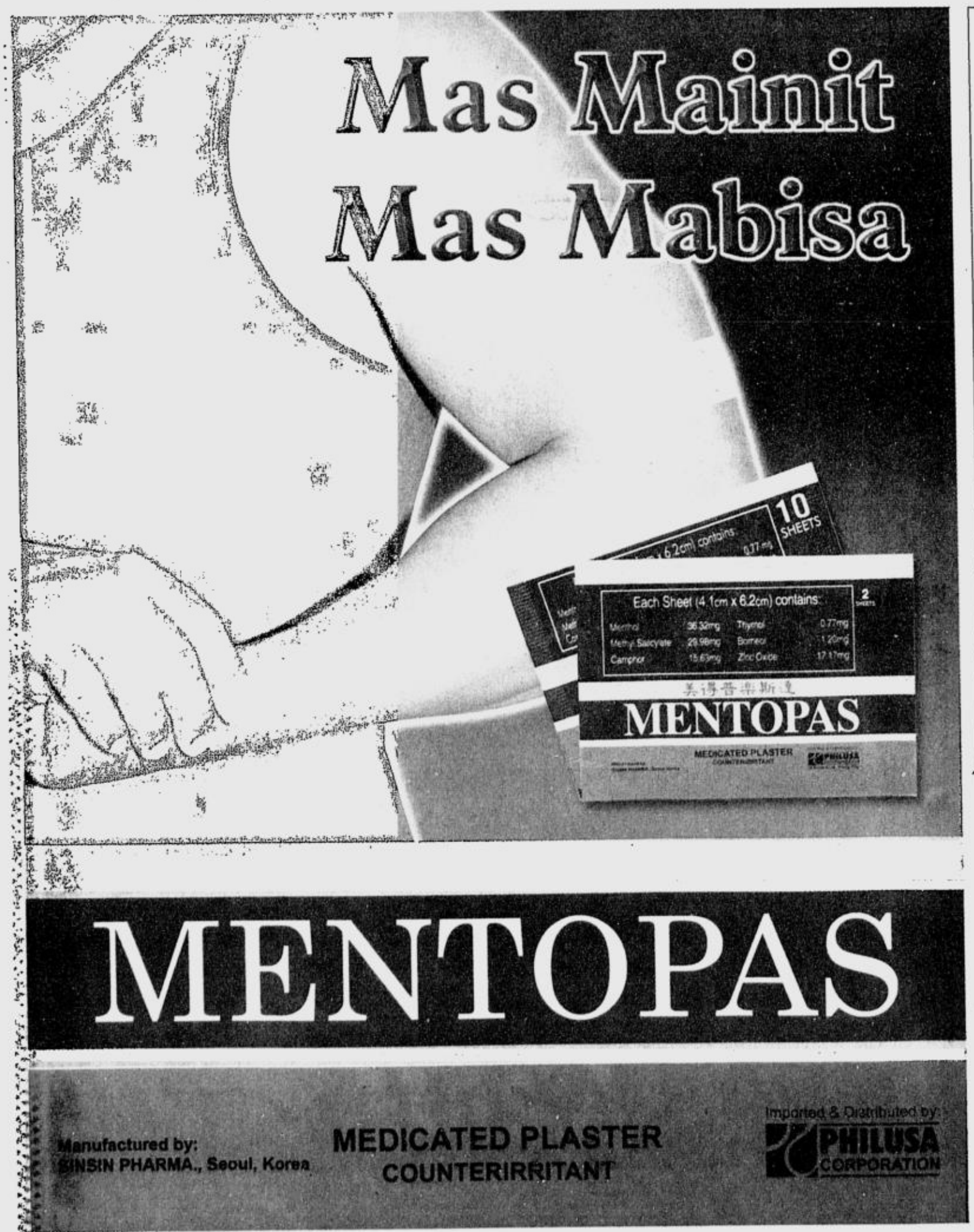
"This is their chance to compete internationally without us having to spend for plane fares," added Angping, who was joined in the weekly forum by Cynthia Carrion, who's helping out the Games' tourism aspect. *With a report from Marc Anthony Reyes*

Bibat takes Samsung lead; Pagunsan struggles

BAGUIO—Michael Bibat and Juvic Pagunsan encountered contrasting fortunes in yesterday's first round of the Samsung Amateur Golf Tour's third eliminations leg at the Camp John Hay Golf Club course here.

The towering Bibat exploded with a scintillating finish of four birdies on his last five holes for a four-under-par 65 to take a three-stroke lead over Korean teener Kim Chang Hoi, who shot a 68.

Pagunsan struggled with a three-over 72 and faced the prospect of being cut in the event backed by Camp John Hay Development Corp., Tokyo Tokyo, KZG, Microtel, Coppertone Sport, Srixon, Philippine Airlines, Sunbolt, Rudy Project, C-Lium Fiber and Sports Plus. Media partners are Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3, 89.9, 99.5 RT, 103.5 K-Lite and Killer Bee.



Why Philippine sports is a headless chicken

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

(UPDATES: They were expecting 18 teams, a total of 36 came. Over 200 boxers, as young as 12 years, are entered in the 1st Mindanao Invitational Amateur Boxing Championships in Magpet, North Cotabato. The meet has to be extended, and ends tomorrow instead of today... Text message of the day: Breaking news... MMDA to install bicycle lane along Edsa as energy conservation measure... to honor PGMA, BF will name the lane "Jose Pidal Avenue.")

* * *

WANNA know how the savage 60-percent budget cut on RP sports feels?

Ouch! *Aray ko po*, cried PSC chair Butch Ramirez, the groan reaching all the way to the kitchen halls of Malacañang.

It was brutal, foul, below the belt.

The punch landed on the belly button, where it hurts most.

With a measly P26 million for 2006, compared to P70 million this year, national athletes would hobble around gripping empty tummies.

After the Philippine Sports Commission suffers the cruelest cut of all, there will be no decent way it could provide national athletes the barest necessities, like food and vitamins.

* * *

It's an insult to Pinoy athletes, cried Philippine Olympic Committee sec-gen Steve Hontiveros.

Hontiveros, also president of the International Bowling Federation, was putting it mildly.

The budget cut was both brutal and unconscionable.

Naturally, nasty suspicions trailed the Department of Budget decision to savage the sports budget.

Maybe it's the government's way of punishing a poor, nonperforming sector?

You see, RP sports, declared as both immature and lost, could not seem to chart a proper direction.

* * *

With wanton politicking often defeating noble efforts at development, RP sports is also often likened to a headless chicken.

It can't seem to decide where it's going.

Did government planners take it upon themselves to cut off the chicken feet so the poor fowl would stop making a fool of itself?

The measly budget does not only ensure that RP sports would suffer a knockdown.

The cut would also help make sure that it's unable to bounce back from the floor.

* * *

Pitifully lost in the thick of protestations was the most urgent point in the plea of the beleaguered PSC chief.

Butch Ramirez appeared to have seen the death of a lifetime dream.

You see, the centerpiece of his plan for no-nonsense national sports development was the establishment of a national sports institute.

"With the sum recommended by the budget department, how could we set up the dream institute?" Ramirez continued to lament.

The institute Ramirez has been aiming for was not different from the national sports academy we had been batting for all these past years.

This is exactly the academy that's been the backbone of the successful sports programs of powers like China and Australia, to name only two.

Naturally, Ramirez has been bawling like a cheated kid.

His planned institute would've charted the renaissance in RP sports.

Too bad, this shallow government has decided to resort to mercy killing with a bloody slash on the national sports budget.

Eagles finally flying high

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

ALTHOUGH I saw him through his brief PBA career, it was only last Monday during the Kapihan sa Maynila forum at the Manila Hotel that I discovered Dodot Jaworski's substance and excellent communication skills.

Frankly, I did not expect the Living Legend's eldest son, now a congressman of Pasig, to be such a good speaker.

While he and fellow congressman Ace Barbers were invited to the Kapihan to talk about the PGMA impeachment, Dodot, being a former cager, was inevitably dragged into the discussions on the state of Philippine basketball, where BAP president Joey Lina and women's division head Cristy Ramos, Philippine Amateur Cycling Association president Bert Lina (one of the two NSA heads who voted against the expulsion of the BAP from the POC) and Dr. Fernando Carrascoso were the resource speakers.

"If any entity can broker the meeting of minds between the BAP and the POC, it is Dodot," said Cristy who, like former Sen. Joey Lina, was batting for a temporary truce between the two warring factions, to facilitate the staging of basketball competitions in the SEA Games with the participation of the Philippines.

Dodot promised to talk to his father-in-law, POC president Peping Cojuangco, even as Joey Lina speculated on elevating the matter to the International Olympic Committee.

Congressman Barbers volunteered to answer when somebody raised the question of whether or not the current basketball problem could be resolved through legislation. The PSC got into the fray by suspending, on the POC's request, all its financial assistance to the BAP.

"*Puwede*, but this will be limited to amendments in the organization's charter. *Hanggang tumatanggap ng* subsidy from government *ang isang* organization, *puwede kaming makialam*, but [our action] will be only limited to charters," Barbers emphasized.

* * *

Ateneo head coach Norman Black and his Blue Eagles have come a long way since the UAAP opening-day massacre inflicted by the La Salle Green Archers.

Looking back, Norman still couldn't figure out what happened that day. "I've never seen the team play that badly. We didn't do anything right," he said.

But now, after a few adjustments and heart-to-heart talks with the players, Norman finds himself on top of the situation again. The Blue Eagles are currently *numero uno* in offensive and defensive rebounds, and No. 2 on the leaderboard, next to the FEU Tamaraws. They have also won seven games in a row.

I didn't want to burst Norman's bubble, but I had to tell him that there were complaints raised by other coaches on officiating, which they said was biased in favor of Ateneo—"Perhaps because the head of the technical staff, Ricky Palou, is from Ateneo," the coaches claimed.

Norman cried foul: "What are they trying to say, that we're not good enough to win on our own?"

According to Norman, UAAP commissioner Joe Lipa had announced during a pre-season coaches' meeting that Fiba rules would be strictly followed and implemented starting this season. "He was very clear on what is allowed and what is no longer allowed. Like handchecks on the body, for example. The players can no longer use their hands to check the opponent, or they'll be slapped a foul."

Norman said they have followed the rules to the letter, which is why the team is not getting that much fouls.

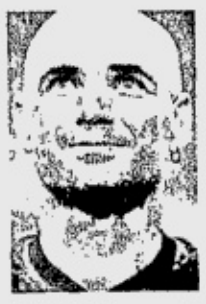
* * *

HOOPVINE: A Senate hearing on the SEA Games preparations is scheduled at 1 p.m. today at the session hall of the Senate . . . Congratulations to Michel Lhuillier's Kwarta Padala team which outclassed Montaña Pawnshop of Davao last Aug. 26 at the Xavier U gym in Cagayan de Oro City to romp off with the Fiesta Invitational Basketball Championship title.

Agassi, Nadal gain

Champ ousted, Sharapova advances

NEW YORK—Like an ageless rock star, Andre Agassi took the court for his 20th straight US Open to roars that drowned out his introduction.



AGASSI AFP

NADAL AP

No one, not even Agassi, knows if this will be his last US Open, but if it is he started it out in fine fashion with a tidy 69-minute, 6-3, 6-3, 6-1 romp over an overwhelmed and thoroughly outclassed Romanian, Razvan Sabau.

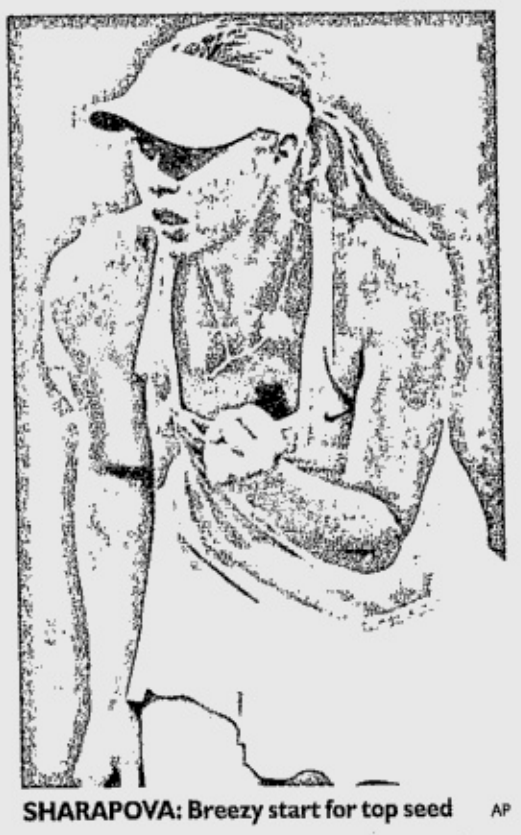
Rafael Nadal and the US Open are made for each other. He is high-energy personified, a New York kind of guy— big, muscular on court and impossible to ignore in his Big Apple red shirt and black toreador pants.

Seeded second behind Roger Federer, Nadal unleashed fiery flashes reminiscent of a young Jimmy Connors amid a workmanlike 6-3, 6-3, 6-4 rout of hard-serving American wild card Bobby Reynolds.

Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova won't be able to defend her title. A year after she emerged from virtual obscurity to win the title, she sprayed shots wildly in a 6-3, 6-2 loss to fellow Russian Ekaterina Bychkova and became the first US Open defending women's champion to fall in the first round.

Women's top seed Maria Sharapova got off to a smart start, dispatching Greece's Eleni Daniilidou, 6-1, 6-1.

Serena Williams beat 16-year-old qualifier Yung-Jan Chan of Taiwan, 6-1, 6-3. Venus Williams breezed past Rika Fujiwara, 6-3, 6-1. *AP*



SHARAPOVA: Breezy start for top seed AP

Telfair, Korean cagers here for Adidas finals

PORTLAND Trailblazer pointguard Sebastian Telfair arrives today to grace the sixth Adidas Asian Streetball finals to be held on Sept. 3 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Telfair, the former Lincoln High stalwart, is also expected to give tips to participants of the event.

Also planing in is defending champion Korea, which heads the five-nation cast in the two-day championships.

Other teams vying for top honors in the boys' and girls' divisions are fancied China, Chinese Taipei and Hong Kong. The Philippines, as host, will field in two teams in each division.

The crack Chinese contingent is expected to arrive in Manila tomorrow, bannered by 1.97-meter Yu Yu and 1.94-m Kai Zhang. Also expected to hit Philippine soil tomorrow is the Chinese Taipei delegation, whose girls' squad is the defending champion.

UMak, NEU triumph

UNIVERSITY of Makati and New Era stayed in the semifinal hunt, pushing aside their respective foes yesterday in the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities at the UM Gym.

UMak (6-6) leaned on its balanced attack to turn back Centro Escolar U, 89-79, for its fourth victory in 12 games. The Wizards still need to sweep all its remaining games to advance.

The Scorpions slumped to 4-9.

Meanwhile, NEU banked on Jeff de Guzman to thrash Amacu (7-7), 72-60, for fifth place overall.

GAMES TOMORROW
(UM Gym)
8 a.m.—St. Clare vs Amacu (Jrs)
9:30p.m.—CEU vs St. Clare (Srs)
11 a.m.—CEU vs St. Clare (W)
12:30p.m.—BCSCMC vs UMak (Jrs)

Palo nails Poker King leg crown

NICO Palo, a construction engineer and realtor by profession, bested Alli Ong in a thrilling all-in Texas Hold'em last deal to grab the champion's trophy in the Poker King Challenge 3rd Leg last Saturday at the Century Resort Hotel in Balibago, Angeles City. Federico David finished third. All three winners earned seats to the Poker King Grand Finals and received trophies, gift packs and certificates from tournament sponsors Philippine Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), Jack Daniels, Bicycle Playing Cards/Star Paper, Hyatt Hotel and Casino, Ralph's Wine, and MyReviewOnline, the Internet knowledge-builder. The Poker King Challenge is a series of non-wager tournaments conducted by the Poker Club of the Philippines in partnership with Pagcor, the gaming authority. The 4th leg will be held on Sept. 24 and 25 at Casino Mactan, Waterfront Hotel, Cebu City. For inquiries, call the Secretariat at 8179092 or visit www.pokerclubofthephilippines.com.

Bates 7-stag finals today

TOPNOTCH cockfighting action resumes at the Makati Coliseum when the Richard L. Bates 7-Stag Derby gets under way today with its 4-stag championship round. Eighty-four entries saw action in the 3-stag elimination round Monday night. Eight entries tallied three wins each, namely Labanan sa Pasay Sept. 30, RS Fairview II, Big Eye, PD Farm PE, 5th of May, Dec. 14 II, Giant Killer Jr and RAV 4. Meanwhile, the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines 5-Stag Derby kicks off on Monday. For inquiries, call 8963545, 8956475 or 8956453.

GCAP derby set at PCC

THE GENTLEMEN Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) will stage its first 5-stag derby this Friday at the Pasay City Cockpit with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. GCAP founder Patrick Antonio said the group will also hold big derbies in cockpits such as the soon-to-open San Juan Coliseum and the Las Piñas Coliseum. Submission of entries is slated tomorrow. Only those stags wingbanded by NCA, GCAP and breeders groups affiliated with the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders will be accepted. For inquiries, call 8431890, 8431746 or 8166750.

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR 999

Race 1—1. She Jinsky 2. Romario 3. Princess Sarah/Archer 4. Prickly Heat 5. Simply Strong
Race 2—1. Ho Ho Ho 2. Best Strike 3. Don King 4. Betchabygollywow
Race 3—1. Tribeca 2. Mika's Pride 3. Jigolo 4. Best Hand
Race 4—1. Nothing Impossible 2. Sweet Felicity 3. Ocean Cookie 4. House of Riches 5. Striker 6. Lucky Joe
Race 5—1. Cosanne 2. Aya's Dream 3. Master Ijhay 4. Penny Wise
Race 6—1. In D Wind 2. Color of the Wind 3. Gentleman's Lady 4. Jamie's Princess
Race 7—1. Valid Hazm 2. Manila's Smile 3. Key Element 4. Transparent
Race 8—1. Feng Shui 2. Fasttellar 3. Premiere Act 4. All Class 5. Burning Steel 6. Charmingly Chit

2ND WEEK

MTRCB RATING: R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP.

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the truth about love

How far would you go to test your man?

How far would you go to keep him?

'Lumang' maid, 'pubicles' and other boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: Wait, I'm getting confused! In this case there appear to be two different maids involved. So, which maid allowed him to keep the boxes in the house that was raided?

Guest: It's good you asked. Once and for all, *'yung kaibigan 'nung* accused, *'yung lumang* maid.

(*Ang sakit mo namang magsalita!*)

***

Host: What did the raiding party discover when it entered the so-called "family" videoke club?

Guest: The raiding officers discovered that it did not cater *pala* to the family market!

Host: How did they realize this?

Guest: When they saw that the place had different secret pubicles!

(What are "pubicles"—cubicles for, ah, pubic activities?)

***

Host: Why do some versions of the "Hello, Garci" tapes sound so garbled or muted?

Guest: It's because of different generations.

Host: What generations?

Guest: The different generations of the tape when it's copied, and then copied again. In the case of the later tapes, the generation loss was lost!

(*Patay!*)

***

Host: Why did your client feel that she was being scared off from testifying?

Guest: Because, for several nights in a row, outside her apartment, there were suspicions people hanging around.

(Ah, that's suspicious-looking people, sir.)

***

Host: What is your assessment of the problematic situation that the country is now facing?

Guest: It reminds me, ironically, of what Quezon said, about "I'd rather prefer a hell-like government run by Filipinos."

(No, that's not what Quezon said!)

***

Host: When was the last time you talked to your mother in the States?

Guest: Last week, she called, me on my birthday. She became quite emotional we're talking.

(Ah, so...)

***

Host: How did you prepare for your career in entertainment?

Guest: I took up action in school, as a matter of course.

(Why not as a matter of subject?)

***

Host: Everybody else has already expressed his opinion on this controversy, except you. What are you waiting for?

Guest: Nothing, really. *Ang gusto ko lang* to clear the air, *ako na lang ang* last *na mag*-final statement.

(*Last na*, final statement *pa*?—*Kulit*!)

***

Host: Why do you want to live out in the province?

Guest: Because I love nature—I want to be close to the widelife!

(Oh, you mean the elephants, the hippos—?)

***

Host: What do you want to say to all of the people who have been criticizing you recently?

Guest: Well, it's OK. As the saying goes, you can please anybody some of the times, but not everybody sometimes or all the times!

(—What are you talking about?!)

'Nurturing Creativity'

AN IMPORTANT and timely conference, "Nurturing Creativity—the First Philippine Creative Industry Forum," will open on Sept. 7 at 8:30 a.m. at the Little Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The forum is being presented by the Department of Trade and Industry, CITEM, the CCP, British Council Philippines, and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. Call 832-1125, local 1113.

'Wiser'

SINGER **Ron Antonio** recently starred in a concert, "Wiser," at Music Museum, with **Nyoy Volante** and **Ella May Saison** among his guests. Next, he's coming up with a new CD, and a new single, "One Hello." A tour of "Wiser" is also in the works. Call 824-1901.

'Dynamite'

JAMIROQUAI returns with his sixth studio album, "Dynamite." It features the lead single, "Feels Just Like It Should," written by Jamiroquai himself. Purchase "Dynamite" in CDs at Tower Records Makati and Alabang and Music One Greenbelt for a chance to win a Sony Ericsson Walkman Phone W8001. Deadline for submission is Oct. 2.

BACK IN OTTAWA
The still irrepressible Rolling Stones front man Mick Jagger, 62, is in his element as the group performs at Frank Clair Stadium in Ottawa on Sunday. The band is on "A Bigger Bang" world tour. The last time they were in the Canadian capital was in 1965.
REUTERS

ROUNDUP

Out of danger

ACTRESS Cherrie Pie Picache, who was diagnosed with dengue, is recovering, according to her manager Ed Instrella.

The actress was rushed to St. Luke's Hospital in Quezon City on Friday after the medicine for fever that she took did not work. "Her platelet count on Saturday night was dangerously low at 35,000. It went up to 40,000 on Sunday and 80,000 today," Instrella told INQUIRER Entertainment on Monday. "She will be released once the count reaches 150,000, the minimum healthy count." Marinel R. Cruz

Hopkins in RFK film

LOS ANGELES—British actor Anthony Hopkins will star in a new film depicting the 1968 assassination of Robert F. Kennedy in a Los Angeles hotel during his bid for the US presidency, the Hollywood Reporter said Thursday.

Actress Demi Moore is in negotiations to star in the film "Bobby," an independent project to be produced by Emilio Estevez.

Blending fact and fiction, the film will depict the lives of different people at the time of Kennedy's June 1968 assassination, shortly after his triumph in the California primaries ahead of the presidential poll.

Hopkins is expected to play a hotel porter

ROUNDUP/ A29

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7 GOLD (DOLBY) SKY HIGH
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9 (DOLBY STEREO) TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
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3
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SKY HIGH 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00	THE DUKES OF HAZZARD 1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00
THE CAVE 1:35 / 4:10 / 6:45 / 9:20	SKELETON KEY 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40
LONGEST YARD 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00	THE GREAT RAID 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00
THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE	MUST LOVE DOGS 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20

ALI MALL CINEMAS

1 SKY HIGH 11:20 / 1:30 / 3:40 / 5:50 / 8:00	4 D' ANOTHERS 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
2 THE CAVE 12:50 / 3:25 / 6:00 / 8:35	5 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD 12:50 / 3:15 / 5:40 / 8:05
3 THE LONGEST YARD 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00	DOLBY DIGITAL SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

SYMPHONY OF THE HEART- GARY V September 2, Friday 8pm	ADIDAS ASIAN STREETBALL FINALS 2005 Sep.3, Sat. 10am - 5pm & Sep.4, Sun 9am - 5pm
NCAA CHEERING COMPETITION September 7 Wednesday 2pm	THE CASCADES ENCORE September 9 Friday 8pm

CENTER EVENTS

SALE EVENT	*All Mall Fashionista Fair now on its final day! Your last chance to score the trendiest, thriftiest looks!*
EXHIBIT	*Rustan's Beauty Destination Exhibit featuring Thierry Mugler's newest scent 'Angel Innocent' now on its last day at the Activity Area of Gateway Mall*
SPECIAL OFFER	*Pizzas now available exclusively at Cibo at Gateway! Don't miss out on this special at Level 2 of Gateway Mall*

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Big stars in 2 original TV movies

TWO television mini-series are set to premiere in the next seven days.

On Saturday, Sept. 3, "Arthur Hailey's Detective" debuts as the Hallmark Channel's September Special. And on Sept. 6, "Iron Jawed Angels" takes a bow as HBO's Original Movie of the Month.

Police thriller

"Detective" is a police thriller. When a former Catholic priest turned distinguished police investigator agrees to hear the confession of a convicted serial killer who is to be executed in a matter of hours, the results are explosive.

The two-part feature is based on the last masterpiece of Arthur Hailey, best-selling novelist who died in November last year.

In the lead role of Malcolm Ainslie is award-winning actor Tom Berenger, known for his performances in "The Big Chill," "Gettysburg," "Someone to Watch Over Me," "Born on the Fourth of July" and "Training Day." He was also cast in a major role in the landmark war movie, "Platoon," which was shot in Los Baños, Laguna. As socio-path Sergeant Barnes, Berenger received an Academy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor.

Detective Sergeant Malcolm Ainslie is a persistent, insightful and thorough investigator acknowledged as one of the best in the force. But he is more known as a former priest, who, following a tragic accident, started questioning his faith.

Berenger, a devout Catholic, says he had no qualms about accepting the role.

The feature series, which starts airing at 9 p.m., also stars Annabeth Gish as Detective Cynthia Ernst and Cybill Shepherd as Ainslie's wife Karen.

Women's struggle

Two-time Academy Award winners Hilary Swank and Anjelica Huston head an all-star cast in "Iron Jawed Angels," a historical drama chronicling the struggle of American women to win the right to vote.

Focusing on two defiant women, Alice Paul (Swank) and Lucy Burns (Frances O'Connor), the film narrates how activists in 1920 broke from the mainstream women's-rights movement and pushed the boundaries of political protest to secure women suffrage.

Huston stars as the older conservative activist Carrie Chapman Catt. Other in the cast are Bob Gunton as President Woodrow Wilson and Julia Ormond as Inez Mulhollan, who gives up her life for the cause.

For her role, Huston won a Golden Globe Award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role in a Series, Mini-Series or Motion Picture Made for Television. The movie itself was the Globe's Best Mini-Series or Motion Picture Made for Television. Swank was nominated for Best Performance by an Actress in a Mini-Series or Motion Picture Made for Television.

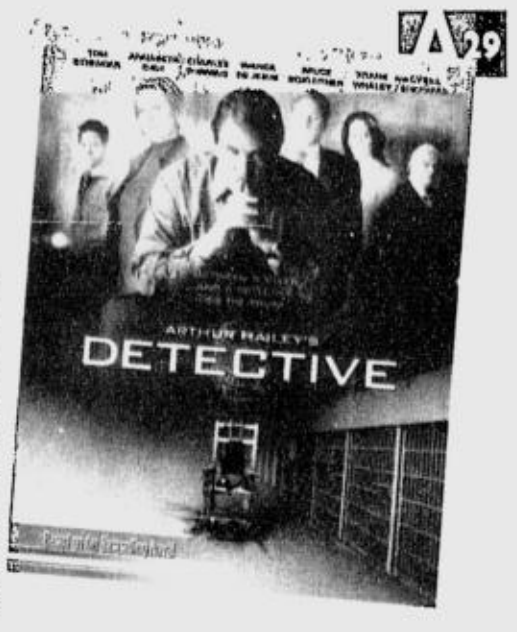
The movie received five Emmy nominations for Outstanding Casting for a Miniseries, Movie or a Special, Outstanding Writing for a Miniseries, Movie Cinematography for a Miniseries or Movie and Outstanding Costumes for a Miniseries, Movie or a Special.

Hilary Swank says "Iron Jawed Angels" transcends time. "It's not about a certain era as much as about conviction of heart about what is right and what's just. That's something that we can all relate to."

The film premieres on HBO Sept. 6 at 8 p.m.

'ANGELS' Vera Farmiga, Hilary Swank, Julia Ormond, Laura Fraser, Frances O'Connor and Brooke Smith

TOM Berenger and Cynthia Erst



BASED on a best-selling novel

ANJELICA Huston

JULIA Ormond as Inez Mulhollan

CYBILL Shepherd

ANTHONY Hopkins

while Moore could portray a cabaret singer.

Filming is due to begin on Oct. 25. *AFP*

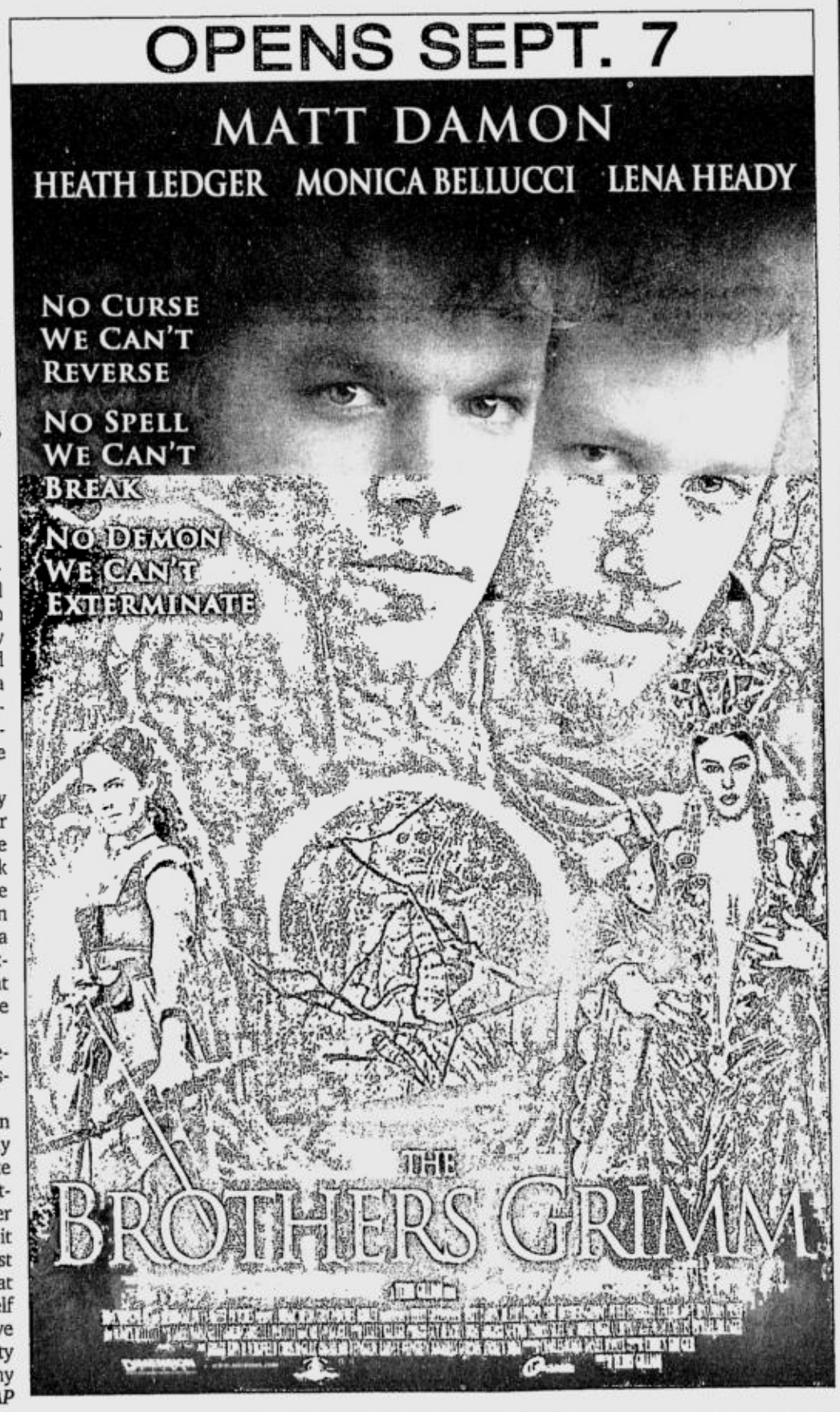
Russell settles

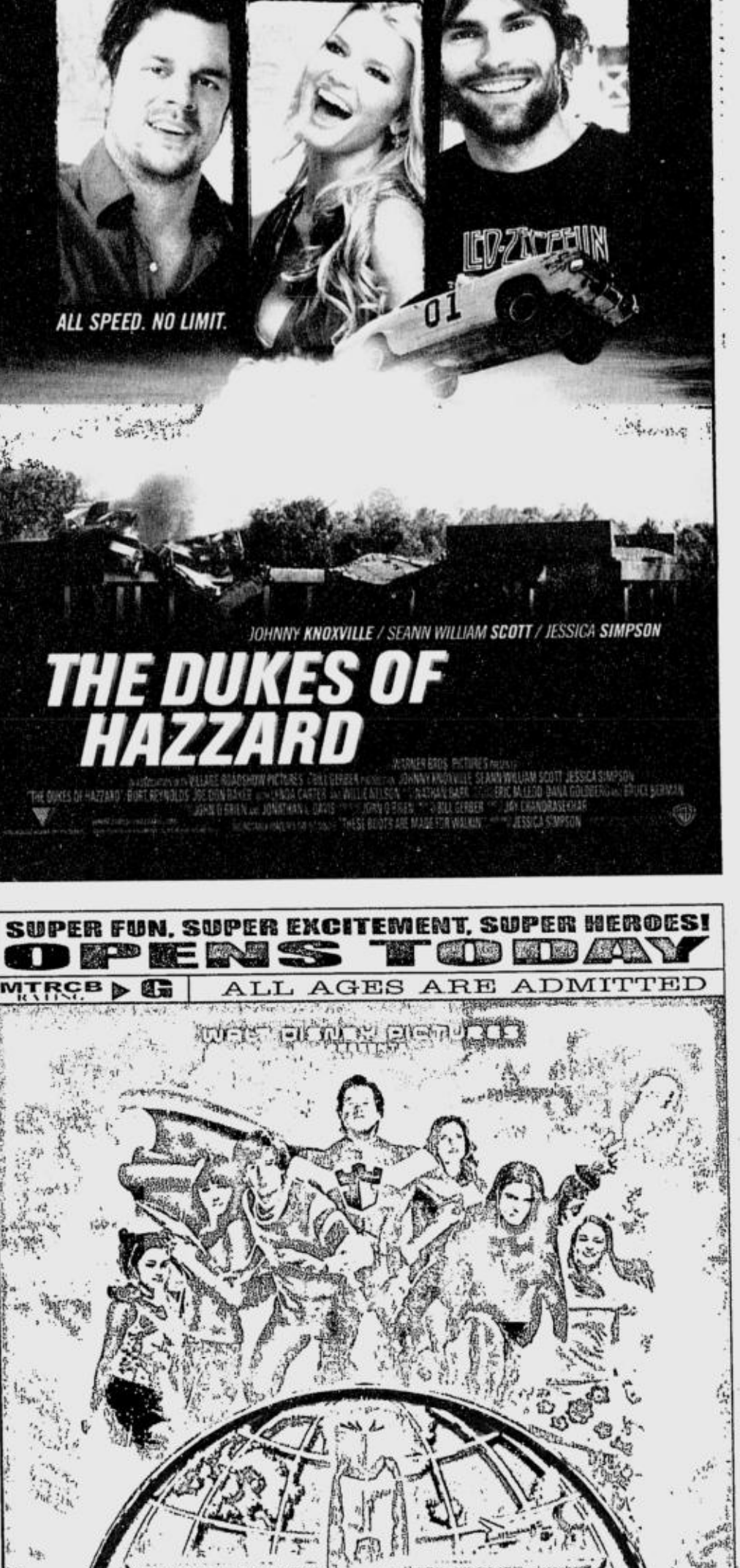
LOS ANGELES—Oscar-winning actor Russell Crowe has reached a settlement with an employee at a New York hotel who claimed the actor threw a phone at him, according to a statement released Thursday by the actor's publicist.

Crowe, 41, allegedly struck concierge Nestor Estrada in June while Crowe was in New York to promote his movie "Cinderella Man," in which he portrayed a boxer. "Both sides expressed satisfaction at the resolution," the statement said.

Terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

The Australian movie star publicly apologized on the "Late Show with David Letterman" shortly after the incident and said it was "possibly the most shameful situation that I've ever gotten myself in in my life, and I've done some pretty dumb things in my life." *AP*





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Christine Bellen's
MGA KUWENTO NI LOLA BASYANG
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(with 7pm show on Saturday)
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THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 SKY HIGH 11:45FS/12:15MF/02:25/04:35/06:45 08:25FS/09:00LMF/10:40END
2 THE CAVE 11:45FS/12:15MF/02:25/04:35/06:45 08:25LFS/09:00LFS/10:40END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 BEWITCHED 12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/05:46/07:38 09:20FS/09:30LMF/11:10END
2 SKELETON KEY 12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/05:46/07:38 09:23FS/09:30LMF/11:15END
3 THE CAVE 12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/05:46/07:38 09:15LFS/09:30LFS/11:10END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 SKY HIGH
5 DUKES OF HAZZARD
6 CINE MANGA
7 PASAWAY
8 SKELETON KEY
9 LONGEST YARD
10 THE CAVE
11 D' ANOTHERS
12 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR
2 EVIL EYES
3 VALIANT
4 THE GREAT RAID
5 D' ANOTHERS
6 THE CAVE
7 DUKES OF HAZZARD
8 SKY HIGH
9 LONGEST YARD
10 SKELETON KEY
11 BEWITCHED
12 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SM NORTH EDSA
1 THE CAVE
2 SKY HIGH
3 SKELETON KEY
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 THE LAZARUS CHILD
6 THE GREAT RAID
7 DUKES OF HAZZARD
8 LONGEST YARD

SM CITY MANILA
1 LONGEST YARD
2 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 THE CAVE
4 DUKES OF HAZZARD
5 VALIANT
6 SKY HIGH
7 BEWITCHED
8 MUST LOVE DOGS
9 THE GREAT RAID
10 D' ANOTHERS
11 EVIL EYES
12 SKELETON KEY

SM CITY STA MESA
1 DUKES OF HAZZARD
2 THE CAVE
3 SKY HIGH
4 LONGEST YARD
5 MGA KWENTO NI LOLA BASYANG
6 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
7 SKELETON KEY
8 EVIL EYES
9 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
10 VALIANT

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 THE CAVE
2 SKY HIGH
3 DUKES OF HAZZARD
4 LONGEST YARD
5 SKELETON KEY
6 D' ANOTHERS
7 THE GREAT RAID
8 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
9 EVIL EYES
10 VALIANT

SM SAN LAZARO
1 THE CAVE
2 SKY HIGH
3 LONGEST YARD
4 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
5 SKELETON KEY
6 DUKES OF HAZZARD

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 DUKES OF HAZZARD
2 THE CAVE
3 LONGEST YARD
4 SKY HIGH

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 THE CAVE
2 DUKES OF HAZZARD
3 SKY HIGH
4 LONGEST YARD

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 SKY HIGH
2 VALIANT
3 MUST LOVE DOGS
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 BEWITCHED
6 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY BACOOR
1 LONGEST YARD
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 THE CAVE
4 VALIANT
5 SKY HIGH
6 PASAWAY
7 DUKES OF HAZZARD
8 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 VALIANT
2 SISTERHOOD IN TRAVELING PANTS
3 CRASH
4 BEWITCHED

SM CITY LUCENA
1 STEALTH
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 CRASH
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 THE GREAT RAID
2 BEWITCHED
3 SKELETON KEY
4 CRASH

SM CITY MARILAO
1 WEDDING CRASHERS
2 BEWITCHED
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 IF ONLY
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 THE MACHINIST

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 BEWITCHED
2 SKELETON KEY
3 THE CAVE
4 MUST LOVE DOGS
5 YEAR OF THE YAO
6 EVIL EYES
7 THE GREAT RAID
8 WEDDING CRASHERS

SM CITY ILOILO
1 BEWITCHED
2 RESERVED
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 WEDDING CRASHERS
6 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR
7 RESERVED
8 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY DAVAO
1 MUST LOVE DOGS
2 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR
3 RESERVED
4 YEAR OF THE YAO
5 SKELETON KEY
6 BEWITCHED

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 THE GREAT RAID
2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
3 THE EYE INFINITY
4 ICE PRINCESS

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Steamboy
by Katsuhiro Otomo (2004/ Japan/ 126 mins)
The nefarious Ohara Foundation has sent men to acquire the Steam Ball so that they can use its power towards their own illicit ends. Rei, a young inventor living in the UK, must then protect the said invention in order to keep a menacing power from being unleashed
Best Animated Feature Film
Winner Catalonian Film Festival 2004

Ghost In The Shell 2: Innocence
by Mamoru Oshii (2004/ Japan/ 99 mins)
Batō is a living cyborg. What only remains are traces of his brain and the memories of a woman. Together with his partner, Togusa, he is sent by the government to investigate a series of shocking murders. Orient Express Award Winner, Catalonian Film Festival 2004; Best Animated Feature Nominated Annie Awards 2005

Appleseed
by Shinji Aramaki (2004/ Japan/ 103 mins)
Based on the 1985 story by legendary writer Masamune Shirow, Appleseed is the story of Deunan who finds herself in the utopic city of Olympus and on a mission to track down Appleseed, a computer code that will decide the war between humans and cyborgs

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*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

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1 CLOSED FOR SPECIAL EVENT
2 THE CAVE Subject to MTRCB Rating
3 SKY HIGH MTRCB: GP
4 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD MTRCB: PG-13

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2:00pm Gakko no Kaidan (Haunted School) by Hideyuki Hirayama
5:00pm Yotsuya Kaidan (Yotsuya Ghost Story) by Kenji Misumi
8:00pm Kaidan (Kwaidan) by Masaki Kobayashi

SEPTEMBER 2 (Fri)
2:00pm Yotsuya Kaidan (Yotsuya Ghost Story) by Kenji Misumi
5:00pm Ugetsu Monogatari (The Ugetsu Story) by Kenji Mizoguchi
8:00pm Kairo (Pulse) by Kiyoshi Kurosawa

SEPTEMBER 3 (Sat)
2:00pm Gakko no Kaidan (Haunted School) by Hideyuki Hirayama
5:00pm Hausu (House) by Nobuhiko Obayashi
8:00pm Tomie: Rebirth by Shimizu Takashi

SEPTEMBER 4 (Sun)
2:00pm Kairo (Pulse) by Kiyoshi Kurosawa
5:00pm Yotsuya Kaidan (Yotsuya Ghost Story) by Kenji Misumi
8:00pm Kaidan (Kwaidan) by Masaki Kobayashi

SEPTEMBER 5 (Mon)
2:00pm Ugetsu Monogatari (The Ugetsu Story) by Kenji Mizoguchi
5:00pm Hausu (House) by Nobuhiko Obayashi
8:00pm Kaidan (Kwaidan) by Masaki Kobayashi

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4 CAVE PLEASE CALL FOR SCREENING TIME

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VALIANT GP	SKY HIGH GP	THE DUKES OF HAZZARD PG13
SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS GP	MUST LOVE DOGS PG13	LONGEST YARD PG13

REAL MONSTERS IN "THE CAVE"

One of the giant amphibian creatures seen in "The CAVE".

THE CAVE may appear to be simply the product of a writer's imagination, but new micro-ecologies have actually been discovered evolving in deep caves, especially in Romania. One of the most famous is the Movila Caves discovery. Acclaimed speleologist and Romanian editor of National Geographic magazine, **Dr. Christi Lascu**, served as a consultant on "The Cave" and was present at the Movila discovery. He says: *"The Movila Caves do bear a resemblance to the story of THE CAVE. It was towards the end of the 1980's when the government wanted to build a huge power plant near Black Sea. My mission was to inspect the soil to see if this land could support such a heavy building. In one of the caves there was sulphuric thermal water full of unusual invertebrate animals."*

"There were probably hundreds of new creatures there, and 35 of them were noted by scientists as "brand new species," he continues. *"These creatures only lived in this cave. They are, in a way, living fossils because they have survived millions of years. During the Ice Age these animals became underground refugees, using the thermal water there to survive. An esteemed colleague of mine used the cave discovery for his PhD thesis. He said that if a nuclear war destroyed the planet and all the life of the surface disappeared, that the ecosystem in the Movila Caves would survive because it doesn't depend on solar energy or food from the surface."*

The Movila discovery was a very big discovery because it was the first underground ecosystem based on chemosynthesis in the world. Among the creatures discovered were a group of amphibian monsters. Although no discovery was made of a monster the magnitude of our creature in THE CAVE - but who knows?

Co-producer Richard Wright adds: *"We worked incredibly hard on this script. It's a deceptively complicated story, and we had to respect the basic underlying science. We were dealing with completely closed ecosystems, chemosynthetic life forms and the physics and safety procedures of cave diving. There's a lot of technical and scientific information that's woven into this script that you don't necessarily realize, but we hope that all the experts and enthusiasts will watch the film and - allowing of course for a certain dramatic license – will think 'Wow, they really did their homework'."*

ADVT

OPENING TODAY

From page A32

are all great, courtesy of Australian first-time feature helmer Bruce Hunt... most of the underwater photography (and there is a lot) is outstanding... giving the footage an almost documentary-like feel. The cast (despite not having much characterization to play with) have a good go with their script, which, whilst intelligent in places, still feels the need to slip in the old corny line from time to time—'He was Special Forces, man. He knew what he was doing.' The monsters when we do get to see them all look fairly decent, but also feel slightly out of place in a cave like this... Unfortunately, events do turn slightly silly towards the end in its rush to reach its adrenaline-pumping climax, and instead of keeping things subtle, 'The Cave' attempts a climactic ending that feels like a combination of 'Aliens' and 'Pitch Black.' If that's your thing, great, but it doesn't sit that well with the film's opening promise of authenticity and thus things like 'sound pulse guns' and hints of parasitical activity feel shoehorned in for pure plot purposes."

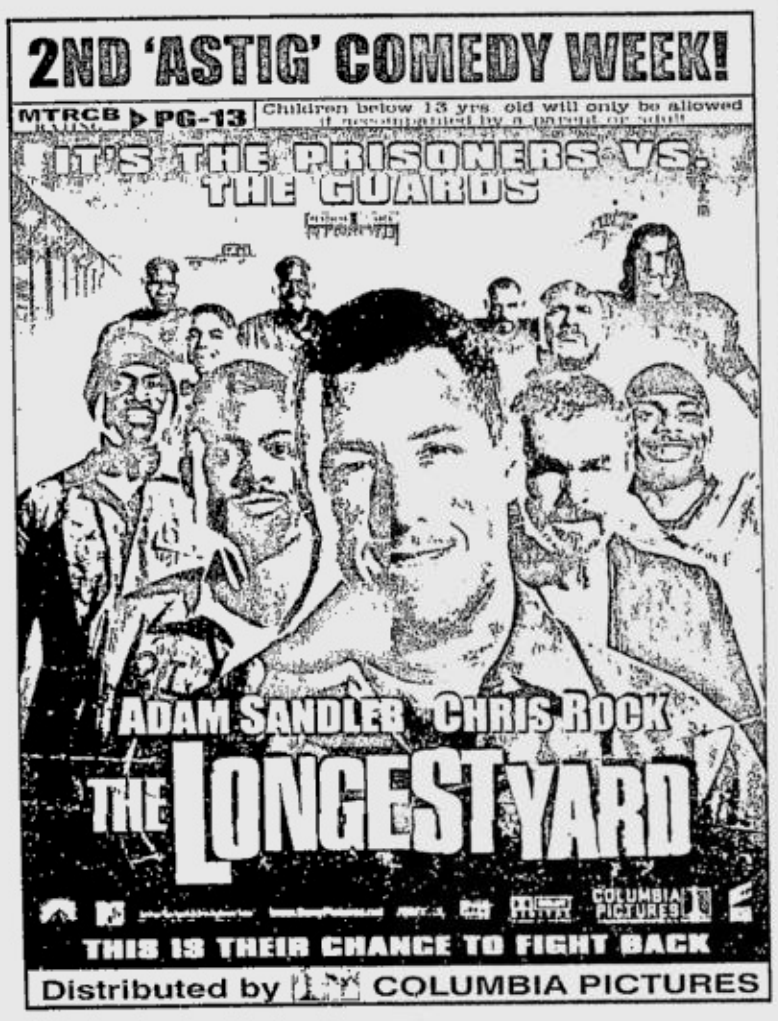
Claudine: I didn't see it coming

From page A32

Would she welcome an amicable settlement? "I don't know yet," she said. "Right now, I don't know what I feel and what she feels. Of course, no one wants trouble. I feel bad, and I want all this to end."

Meanwhile, she hasn't seen any of the complaints, Claudine said. "I hear different things from different people. I cannot say that I am not affected. There are days when I feel down. So I just count my blessings."

Among her latest blessings, she said, is "Dubai," her last movie as a single woman, with Aga Mulach and John Lloyd Cruz. In January, she will wed long-time boyfriend Raymart Santiago.



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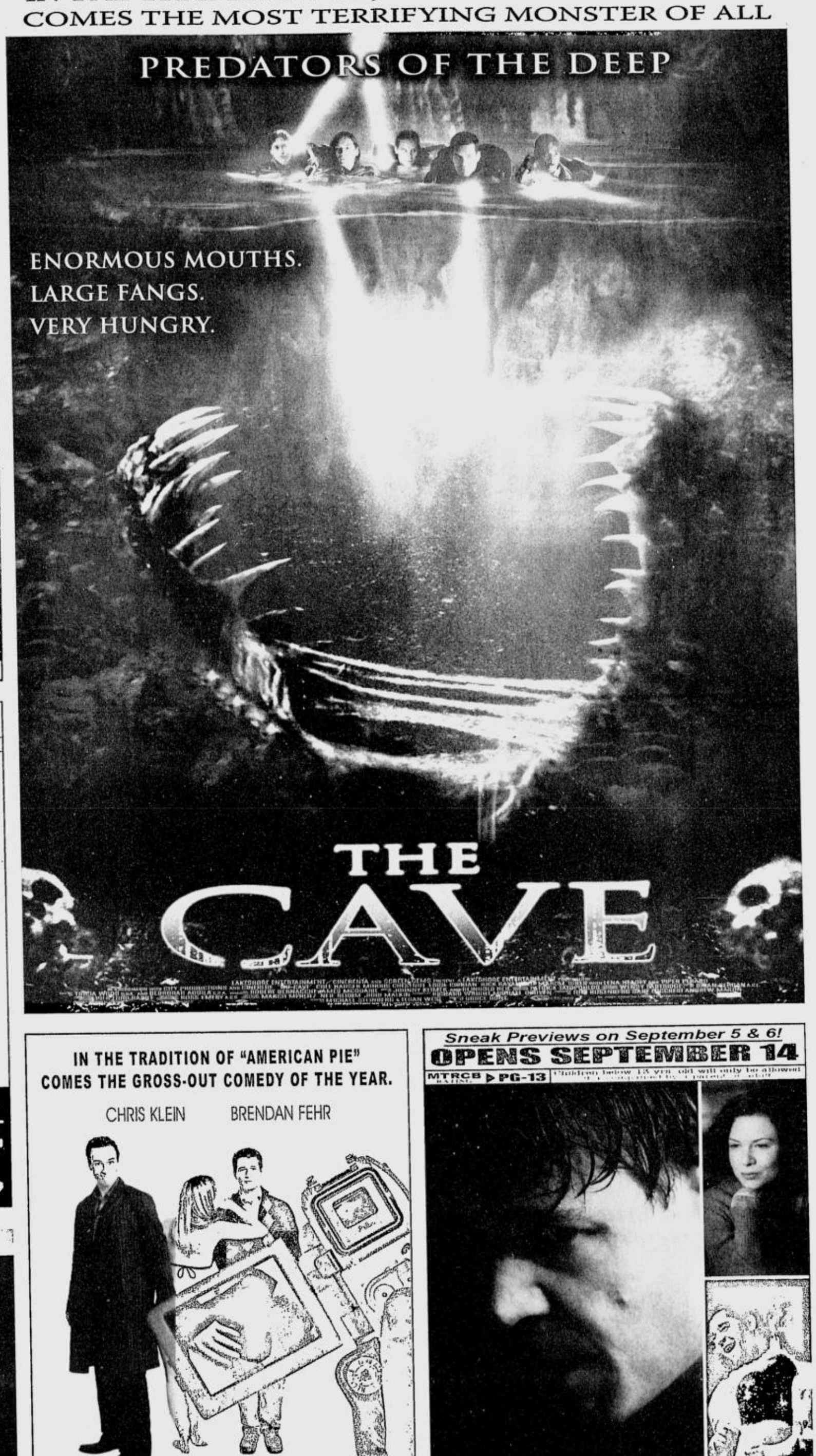

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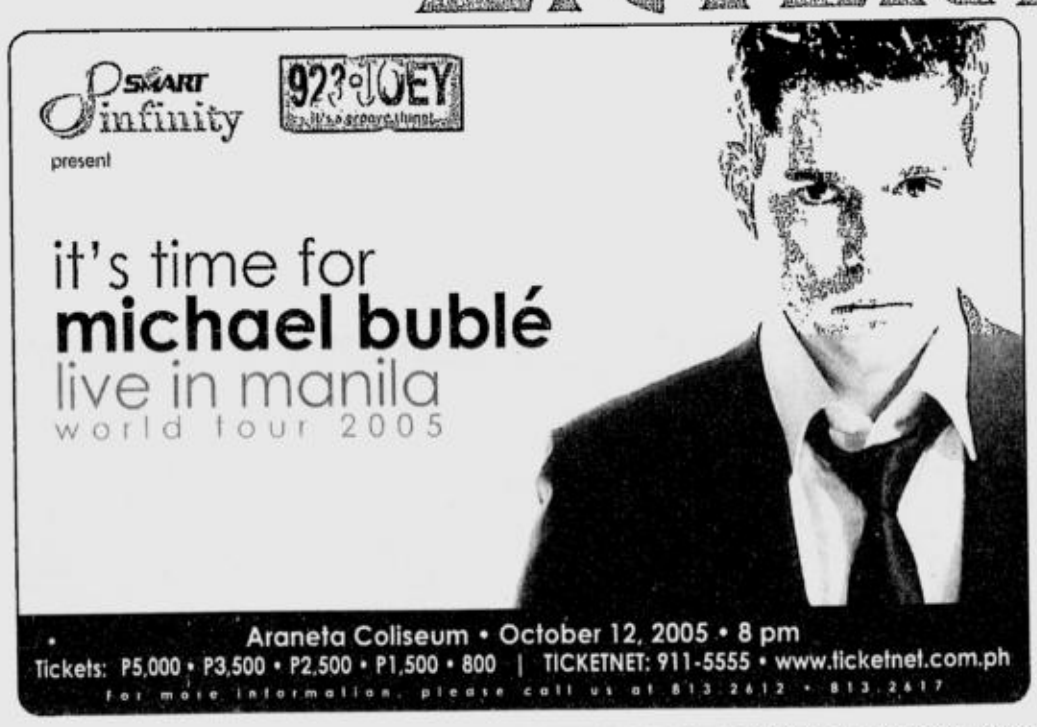


SHE'S glad everything's up to the courts now, Claudine Barretto says.

'I didn't see it coming'

By Nini Valera

CLAUDINE Barretto said she had not expected the lawsuit filed against her last Friday by the daughter of magazine editor Jo-Ann Maglipon. The actress sued Maglipon for libel last August.

On Friday, Pat Marcelo filed a P150,000 suit against Claudine for allegedly maligning her in several radio and print interviews.

"When I filed the case against Maglipon, I expected [the counter suit from her]," Claudine told INQUIRER Entertainment on Monday during the press conference for "Dubai," her latest movie. "I didn't expect [this one from] Pat."

Maglipon's daughter, who worked on the set of Claudine's soap "Marina" as a diver, accused the actress of saying in the interviews that she "conspired with her mother Jo-Ann Maglipon ... by entering the set of 'Marina' under a false name in order to steal shots or pictures of ... Barretto and publish them in YES! magazine."

In her complaint, Pat said Claudine "pictured her ... as a liar and a thief."

Claudine denied that she accused Pat of changing names to gatecrash "Marina's" set. "I didn't know she was Maglipon's daughter," the actress said.

Laughable

In a separate statement, Pat said the moral and exemplary charges she was seeking was "negligible, maybe even laughable, by the standards of a movie star like Claudine Barretto." But, she continued, "this case is not about the money, it is about name."

Claudine stressed that she had not read the tabloid columns of Jobert Sucaldito, which was cited in Maglipon's counter suit. "I don't want to accuse somebody of misquoting me," Claudine said. "It's better that this is already in court."

In her complaint, Claudine accused Maglipon of "unfair and irresponsible journalism" for publishing allegedly unauthorized photos of the actress in unguarded moments, and a series of "one-sided articles" that depicted her in a bad light.

Further, she said, pictures of her daughter Sabina's baptism, published in Hi Magazine, of which Maglipon is executive editor, had been promised for exclusive publication in Star Studio magazine and INQUIRER.

The actress also sought a restraining order to keep the magazine editor at a distance of at least 250 meters.

On the other hand, Claudine admitted that the Hi Magazine feature was very positive. She said she sued only Maglipon and not the other staff members because she did not want to involve people who had not done her harm.

I DIDN'T/A31

OPENING TODAY

The Dukes of Hazzard

Stars Seann William Scott, Johnny Knoxville, Jessica Simpson, Lynda Carter
Directed by Jay Chandrasekhar

Roger Ebert, in his Aug. 5 review for the Chicago Sun-Times, wrote: "'The Dukes of Hazzard' is a comedy about two cousins who are closer'n brothers, and their car, which is smarter'n they are... [It] stars Johnny Knoxville, from 'Jackass,' Sean William Scott, from 'American Wedding,' and Jessica Simpson, from Mars. Judging by her recent conversation on TV with Dean Richards, Simpson is so remarkably uninformed that she should sue the public schools of Abilene, Texas, or maybe they should sue her. On the day he won his seventh Tour de France, not many people could say, as she did, that they had no idea who Lance Armstrong was."

Sky High

Stars Kurt Russell, Kelly Preston, Michael Angarano, Lynda Carter
Directed by Mike Mitchell

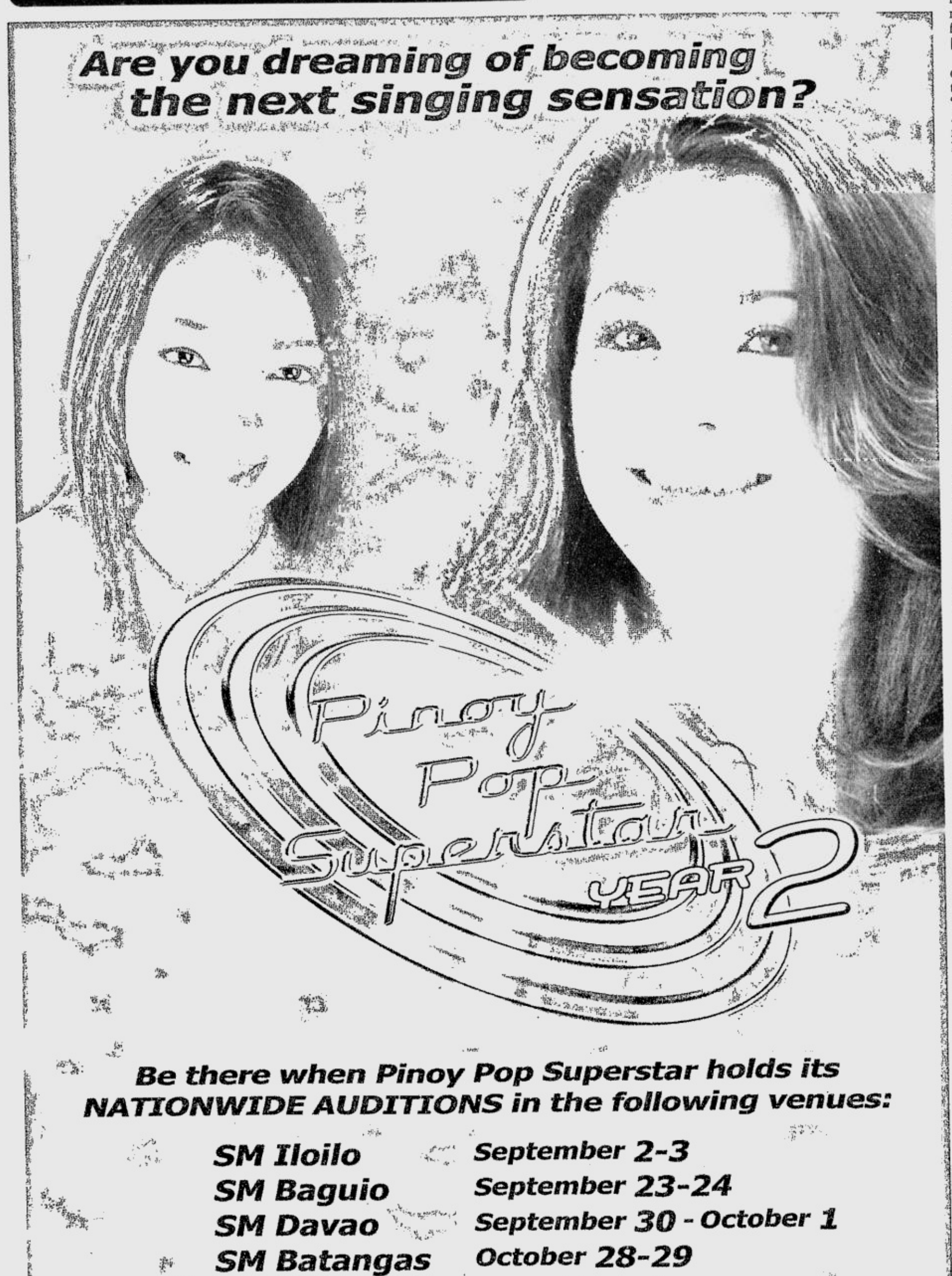
Mr. Cranky of mrcranky.com wrote: "I'm trying to figure out how, all of a sudden, within the span of two days, I've seen two movies featuring Lynda Carter. What exactly is going on here? Did the producers of one movie hear about the other movie and worry that they might miss out on the Wonder Woman nostalgia Carter's appearance would inevitably bring? Is she dying of some mysterious disease? ... For the most part, this is a live action version of 'The Incredibles,' except that the focus is mostly on the kid, in this case Will Stronghold (Michael Angarano), and not the parents, The Commander (Kurt Russell) and Jetstream (Kelly Preston). It's essentially the boring parts of every teenage angst film ever made only with lots of superhero jokes. It really is the sort of movie that gets made by letting computers figure out what will sell, and then using mathematical guidelines to map out all the plot points."

The Cave

Stars Cole Hauser, Morris Chestnut, Eddie Cibrian
Directed by Bruce Hunt

Rawshark posted this Aug. 15 review on eatmybrains.com: "... The direction and look of the film

OPENING/A31



Editor Emmie G. Velarde
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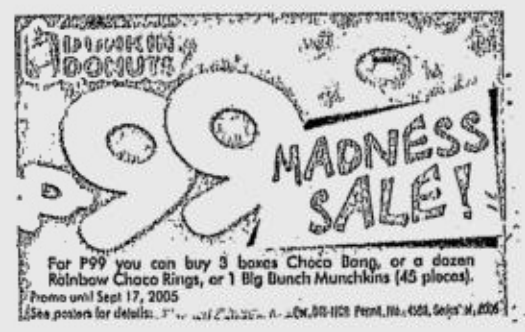

MADELA and Navales, champs at the 'talent Olympics' in Hollywood

A proud Pinoy moment

IT WAS a proud Pinoy moment.

For the first time in the 11-year history of the World Championship of Performing Arts (WCOPA)—dubbed "Talent Olympics"—recently held in Hollywood, a single country swept all but a few major awards.

The Philippines' Jed Madela and Rizza Navales bagged a total of 11 gold medals, one silver medal, three Champion of the World plaques and the Grand Champion trophy.

Madela and Navales were the country's only representatives. The United States fielded 150 talents and South Africa sent 250.

A PROUD/ A2-3

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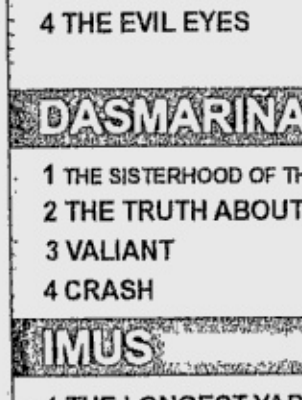

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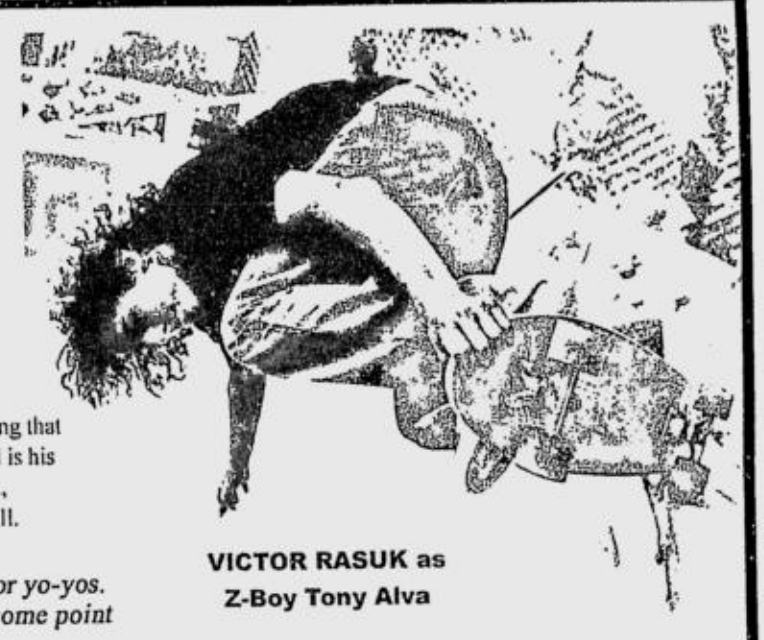

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WINNER West REUTERS

VIDEO of the Year award for Greenday REUTERS

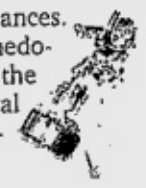
DID YOU KNOW...

Juliana Gomez did not ask for toys or chocolates when her parents, **Richard** and **Lucy**, went to the United States last month for the "GMA 7 Kapuso Weekend." The 4-year-old requested three things: a pair of capri pants, a backless top and high-heeled sandals. "*Aba, dalaga na,*" said her dad.

7 'moonmen' for Green Day

PARIS Hilton REUTERS

ALICIA Keys does it again. REUTERS



MONEY shower! REUTERS

MIAMI—Rock was resplendent at the MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday night as the veteran punk group Green Day took home seven "moonmen" and newcomers The Killers and Fall Out Boy won one each.

Green Day, who arrived at the venue in the vintage green convertible from their gritty "Boulevard of Broken Dreams" video, won Best Rock Video and Video of the Year for the clip—two of their leading eight nominations. They also won the Viewer's Choice Award, Best Group and several technical categories, losing only to Gwen Stefani's "What You Waiting For?" for Best Art Direction.

In recent years, hip-hop and pop have dominated the show, especially in the major categories. Not this year: My Chemical Romance and Coldplay were among the showcase performances, and Kanye West was the only rapper to win an "all-genre" award, with his "Jesus Walks" taking Best Male Video.

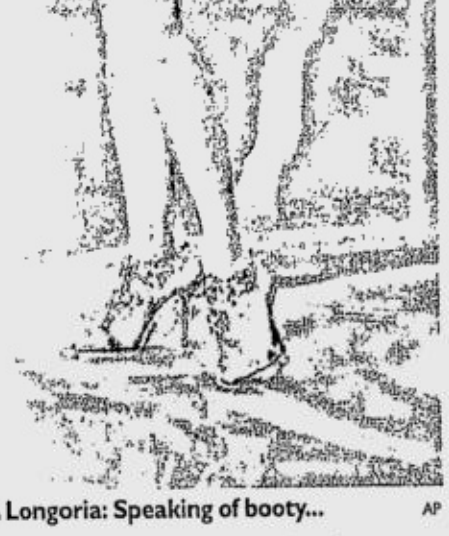
"It's great to know that rock music still has a place at MTV," said Green Day lead singer Billie Joe Armstrong.

The Killers won Best New Artist. Fall Out Boy won the MTV award for their song "Sugar, We're Going Down," beating out artists like Mike Jones, My Chemical Romance and reggaeton star Daddy Yankee.

But Pete Weintz of Fall Out Boy downplayed the "rock is resurgent" angle. "Whatever is going to happen is going to happen organically," he told The Associated Press backstage. "The return of rock doesn't mean anything else is going away."

"The theme of tonight is, anything can happen," proclaimed host P. Diddy, whose entrance included dancers, pyrotechnics and a cascading waterfall—a spectacle that rivaled the show's actual performances.

Ludacris turned his hedonistic "Pimpin' All Over the World" into a multicultural Mardi Gras-like extravaganza, complete with steel drummers, African dancers and, of course, around-the-way booty-shaking girls. Miami booty king Luke of 2 Live Crew fame brought a bevy of girls for his cameo appearance. But one of the biggest surprises was MC Hammer, recapturing some of his glory while shaking to his '90s hit, "U Can't Touch This."



EVA Longoria: Speaking of booty... AP

Speaking of booty, Eva Longoria showed hers—and a lot more—with a skimpy one-piece pink bathing suit.

"Hey Diddy, you said anything goes, and I wasn't going to let a little hurricane prevent me from wearing my bathing suit!" said the "Desperate Housewives" star.

Kelly Clarkson's "Since U Been Gone" won two awards, for Best Female and Pop Video. Also winning two awards were Missy Elliott, the Gorillaz and Stefani. *AP*

KELLY Clarkson, is that you? REUTERS

A proud Pinoy moment

From page A2-1

The WCOPA is staged annually in Hollywood. This year's competition was participated in by 51 countries, from Armenia to Zimbabwe.

Madela won the gold in all six events that he joined. Navales won five golds and a silver.

Jed was declared Champion of the World in the Male Singing Division and Rizza won parallel honors in the Female Division. They also won Champion of the World in the Duet category.

Overall winner was Jed, who was declared Grand Champion. He bested hundreds of contenders in the Dance, Acting, Instrumental and Modelling divisions.

The duo's recording company, Universal Records, said that, on the first day of the competition, the heads of delegations introduced their participants. It was then that the leader of the South African group proudly announced that he had brought a "planeload" of contestants. South Africa and the US were enthusiastically applauded, Universal executives said.

Ida Henares of GMA Artist Center, head of the Philippine group, next took the podium. She proudly announced that her country sent two contestants, one male and one female. This was reportedly greeted with snickers—even laughter. But after a few days, many of those who laughed were shouting, "Bravo!" after every Pinoy performance.

The Philippine delegation celebrated their triumph in Las Vegas, where they watched a performance by now US-based Lani Misalucha. There, Jed and Rizza also performed for international bookers and talent agents. That same evening, they both received several tempting offers—for example, a permanent slot in a Vegas nightspot for Rizza.

But the winners are taking things slowly. First in their immediate plans is a Manila homecoming, of course.

Ernie Pecho, contributor

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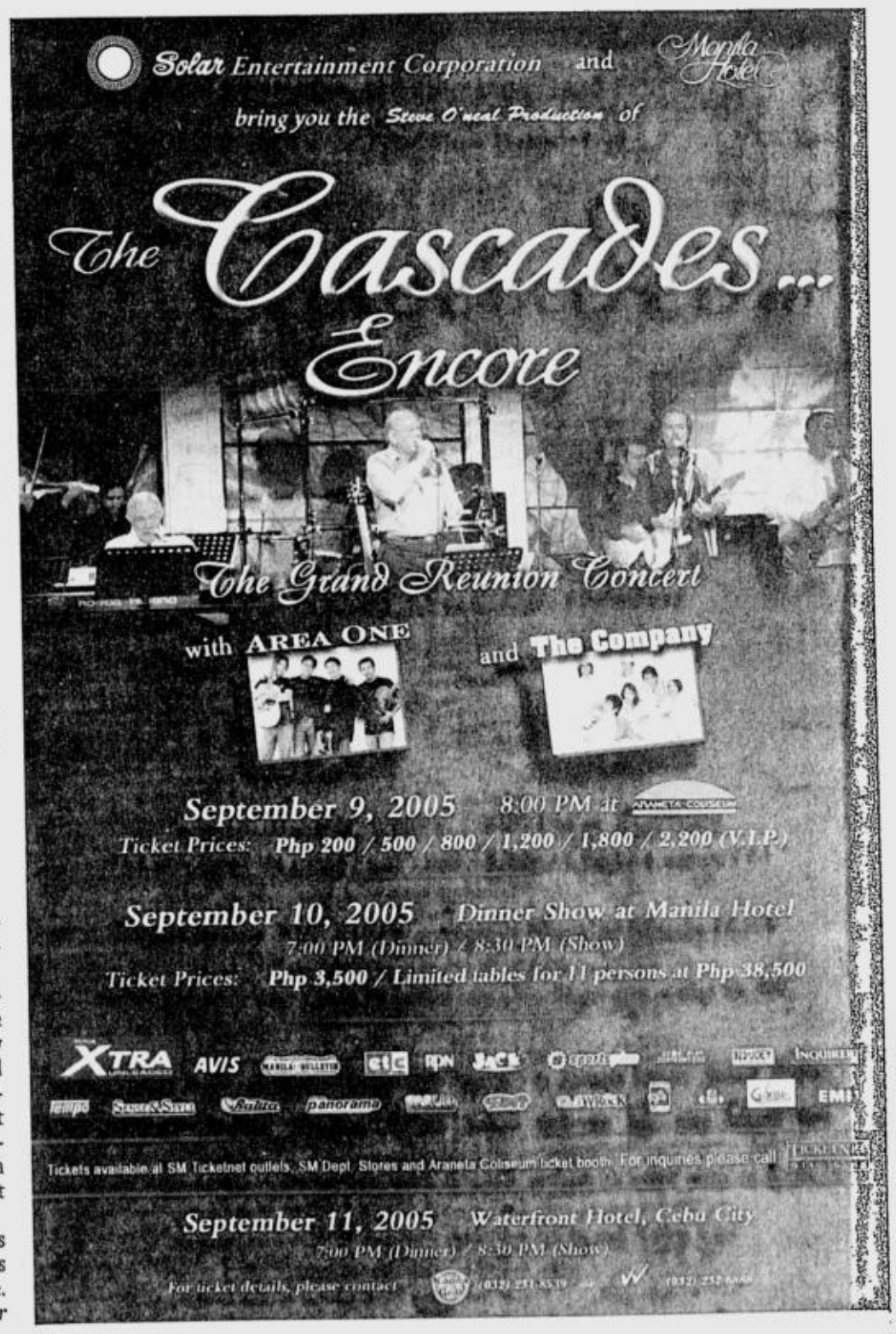

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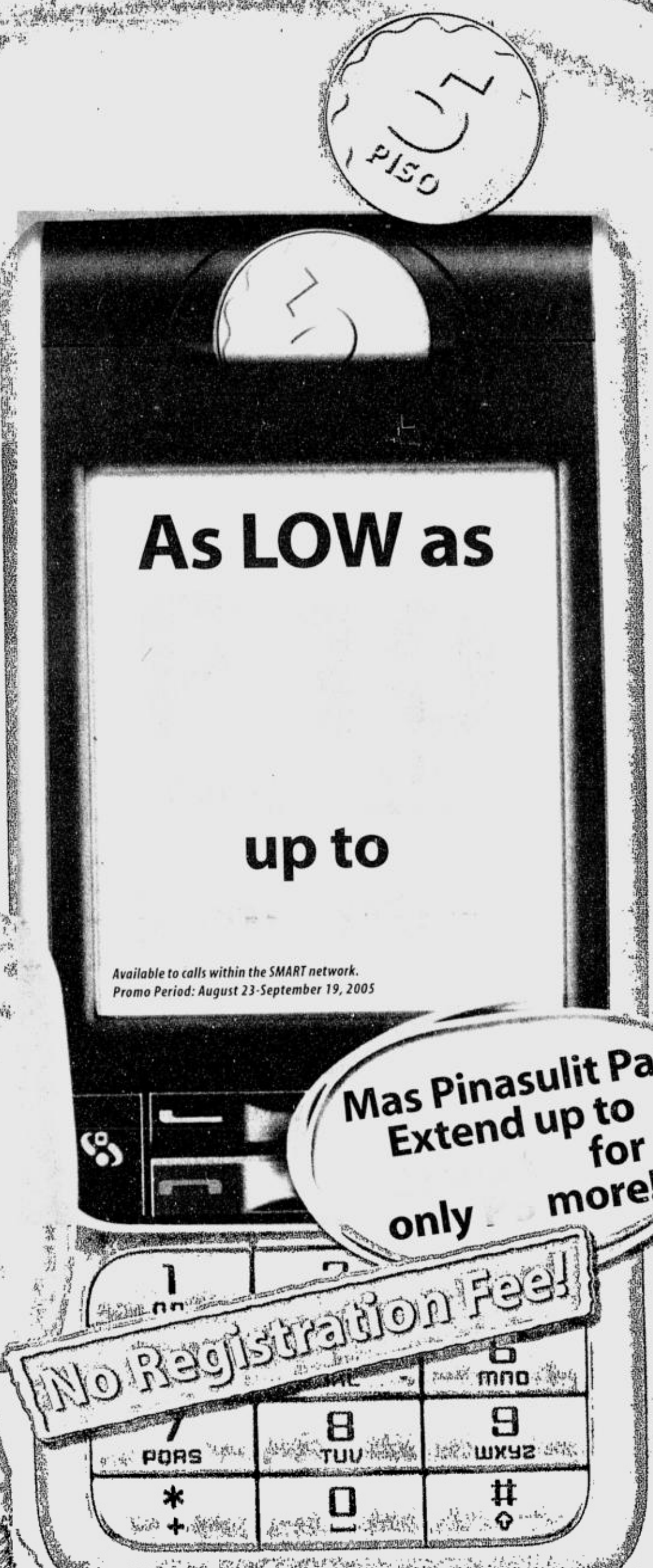

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Volume of oil products sold down 7.3%

Rising prices dampen demand

By Abigail L. Ho

SALES of oil products dropped by 7.3 percent to 9.02 billion liters in the first half as fuel prices continued to escalate and uncertainties brought by the pending expanded value-added tax law dampened demand.

In a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. said it posted a worse-than-industry sales volume decline of 10.5 percent across all product types, except for diesel sold to National Power Corp.

"Commercial and (liquefied petroleum gas) sales slowed down, indicative of fuel substitution activities and slower industrial demand, particularly due to the slowdown in manufacturing activities," Shell said.

"Shell similarly suffered volume losses in retail sales in a market characterized by high volatility in product pricing, intensified marketing activities by Petron (Corp.) and the high level of activities surrounding the expanded VAT law," it added.

Despite the drop in sales volume, Shell managed to post a net income of close to P2.9 billion in the January-June period.

Much of the growth was attributed to the oil firm's strong export performance. In the second quarter alone, exports grew 351 percent as compared with the previous quarter.

But oil demand is expected to decline further for the remainder of the year as the government pushes energy conservation measures and the use of alternative transport fuels.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said consumption should be reduced to enable the country to cope with the global oil price crisis.

"We need to bring down consumption and protect our foreign exchange reserves. Runaway prices can threaten our forex reserves," he said.

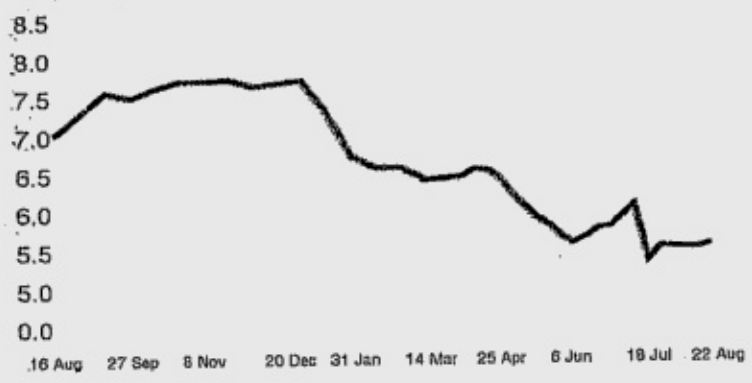
He explained that consumer finances were not the only thing being challenged by high oil prices. The country's forex reserves would definitely suffer if high world prices continued without the country reducing its oil demand.

The country's oil import bill could well soar to $7.5 billion this year, more than twice last year's $3.5 billion, he said.

According to documents from the Department of Energy, the country's oil bill for the first five months of the year surged 27.2 percent to $2.3 billion from only $1.8 billion in the same period last year, despite an 8.6-percent decline in actual oil demand.

Over the last nine years, the country's oil import bill had risen dramatically, climbing from only 7.7 percent of gross domestic product in 1995 to 22 percent last year, one of the worst in Asia, Energy Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya had earlier said.

91-day Treasury bill rates
Aug. 16, 2004 to Aug. 22, 2005



Gov't rejects bids for 91-day T-bills

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT rejected all bids for the bellwether 91-day treasury bills yesterday, saying the market behaved "crazily" by asking for unreasonably high rates while they were confronted with excess liquidity.

Had the Treasury's auction committee accepted the bids for the three-month paper, its rate could have risen by 40.3 basis points to 6.065 percent from only 5.662 percent during last week's auction.

The Treasury also accepted partial bids for the 182- and 364-day bills to avoid pushing up their rates to levels that the government deemed unacceptable.

The six-month and one-year bills fetched rates of 7.597 percent and 8.695 percent. The new rate for the six-month bill was 0.5 basis point higher than the previous rate of 7.592 percent. The rate for the one-year bill was 5.8 basis points higher than last week's 8.637 percent.

Total bids accepted for the six-month and one-year securities amounted to P1.075 billion and

GOV'T/ B5

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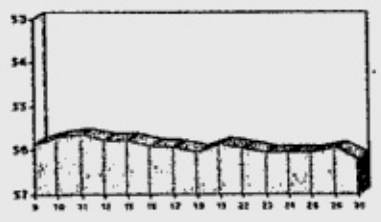

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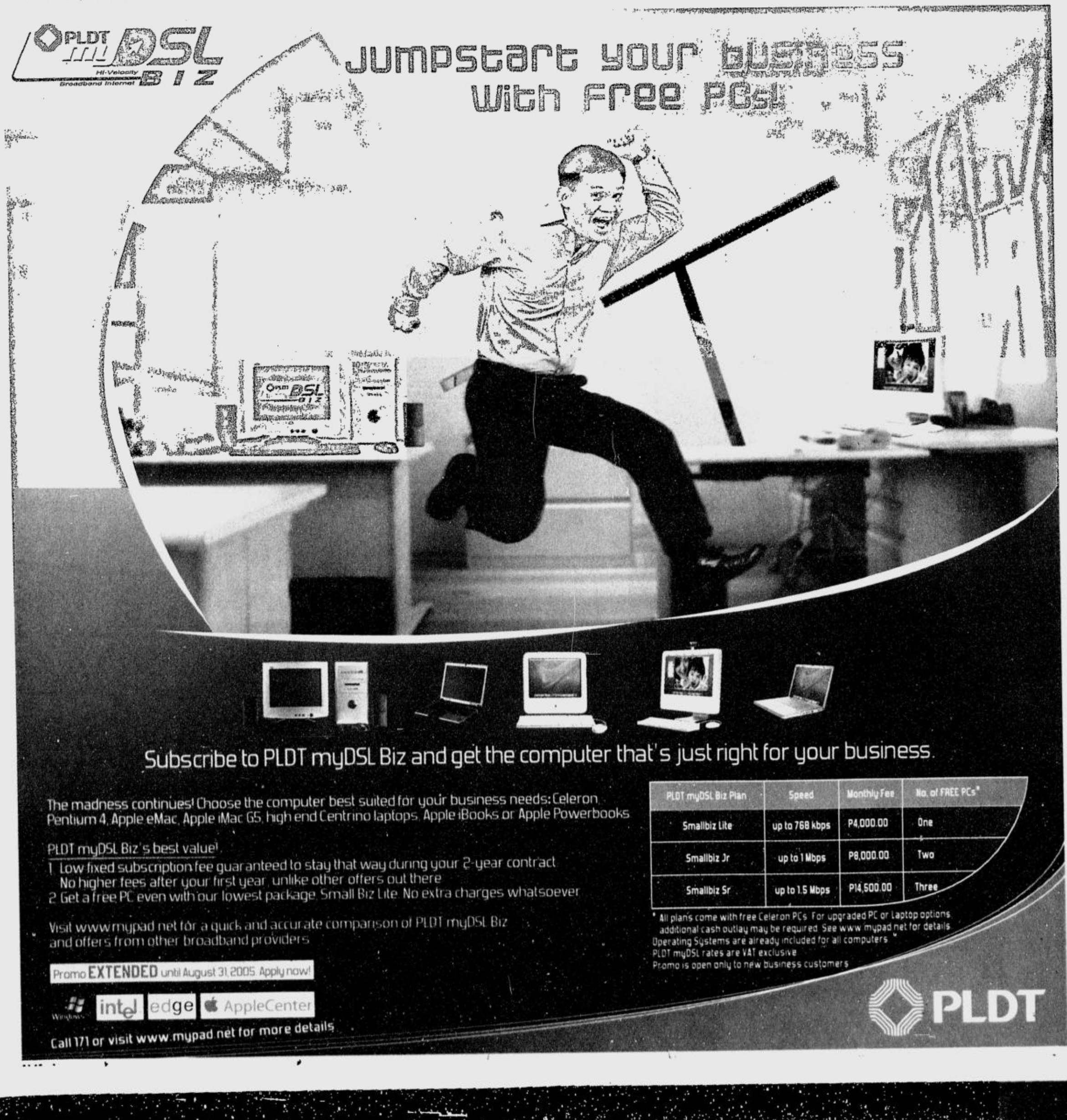
STOCK MARKET

Shares close 0.88% higher

SHARE prices closed 0.88 percent higher on Tuesday due to a technical rebound and the announcement of firm economic growth figures, despite daunting problems facing the economy, dealers said.

They said market players also took positions in selected stocks in anticipation that an impeachment complaint filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo would soon be settled.

SHARES/ B5



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PAL likely to stay put

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE Airlines controlled by Lucio Tan will not make life any easier for Emilio Yap once his Manila Hotel Corp. starts operating the new Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

A PAL director said the flag carrier would rather stay put in its airport terminal than move to Naia Terminal 3 where it would have to pay more.

Manila Hotel now owns more than 60 percent of Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. after it bought Fraport AG's 61-percent interest and the combined 20-percent stake of SB Airport Investment Corp. and Sojitz Corp.

Piatco will ask the government to allow it to operate Naia 3, according to Manila Hotel Corp. president Jose Lina Jr.

The taipan's son Michael Tan, newly appointed director of PAL, said the flag carrier would only consider moving to the new airport terminal if the operator would apply the same terms and conditions as that of the Naia Terminal 2 where PAL runs its domestic and overseas operations.

"We are happy where we are now," said Tan in an interview. "Perhaps, if the terms and conditions are the same, we may consider it."

PAL earlier said that moving its operations to Naia Terminal 3 would be very costly.

"In the long term, there is probably a need to expand Terminal 2," said Tan. But he added it would have to be initiated by the Manila International Airport Authority because PAL was just leasing the facility from the MIAA.

The Arroyo administration is worried that Terminal 3 may not be viable without PAL.

The government wants to open the new airport facility before the year ends.

Distillers to turn excess alcohol into fuel ethanol

By Abigail L. Ho

LOCAL firms engaged in the manufacture of rubbing alcohol and alcoholic beverages are keen on turning their excess ethyl alcohol into fuel ethanol.

According to Gerardo Tan Tee, plant manager of the Lucio Tan Group's Absolut Chemicals Inc., the country's 12 distilleries are looking at the feasibility of investing in equipment that could turn their excess alcohol—running up to around 280 million liters a year—into something that could be blended with gasoline.

To turn the alcohol produced in their plants into fuel ethanol, Tee said that the substance should pass through a dehydrator, a $500,000 machine that would remove almost all of the water in alcohol.

He said the fuel ethanol that would be blended with gasoline should be anhydrous or should contain less than 1 percent of water.

Right now, local distilleries have an excess capacity of between 5 and 10 percent, or around 280 million liter a year, Tee said.

But investments in this venture will not come in until the bio-ethanol law is passed, Tee said.

The proposed law contains a wide range of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives that will encourage the entry of new investors in the sector. The fiscal incentives include exemption from tariff duties on the importation of equipment and machinery, as well as tax levels that are the same as those for unleaded gasoline. These levels will remain in effect for 10 years even if taxes for unleaded gasoline are raised in the future.

One of the non-fiscal incentives under the bio-ethanol bill is the classification of all ethanol production and blending investments as "pioneering" or "preferred areas of investment." This entails perks of its own.

Bio-ethanol producers will likewise be granted easier access to financing from the Development Bank of the Philippines, Land Bank of the Philippines and the Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corp.

Last Monday, Seaoil Petroleum Corp., Eastern Petroleum Corp., Flying V and USA88 started selling gasoline blended with 10-percent ethanol. Shell is likely to follow suit next year.

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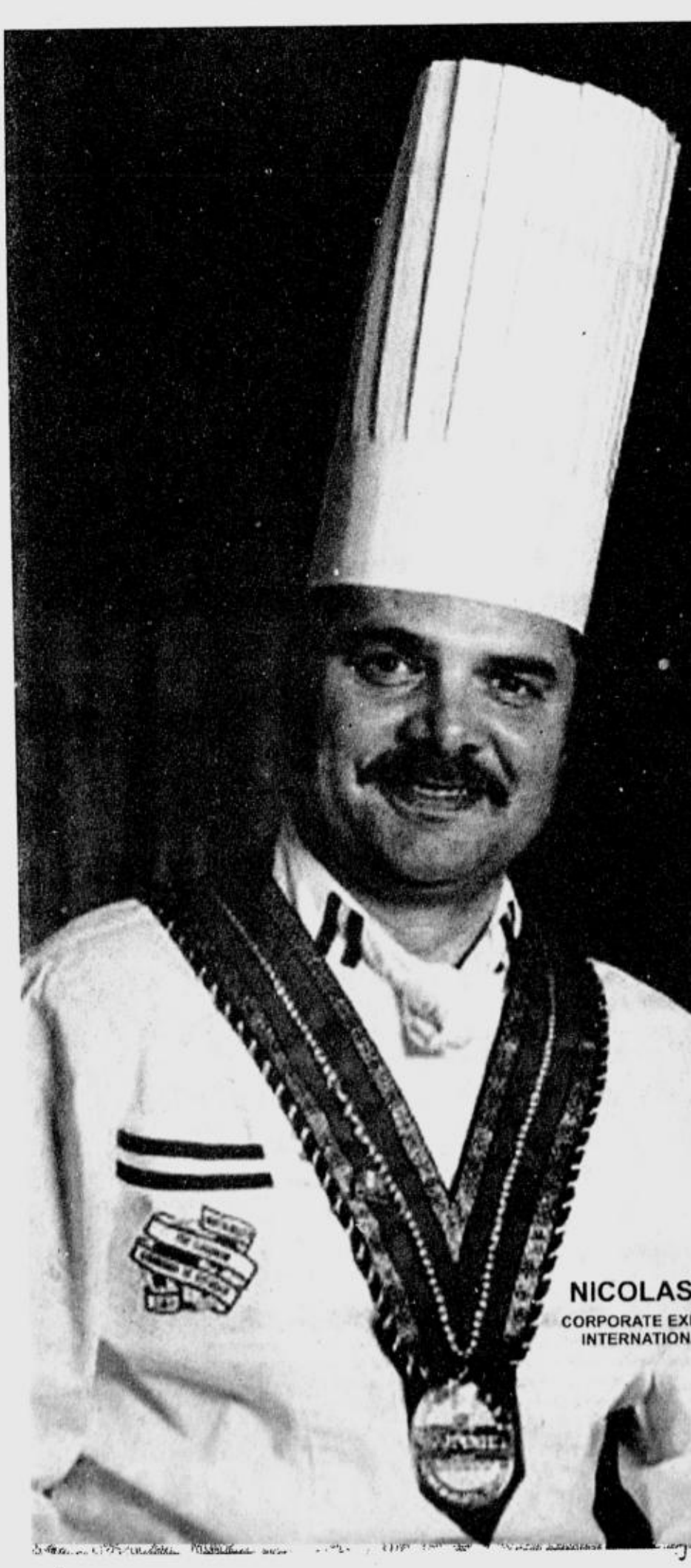

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Hyatt hypocrites

COCK-TALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE "ANAY Ten" (Lupita Kashiwahara's description), under the banner of the Black and White Movement—"Because the truth does not come in shades of gray"—held a press conference again yesterday to give the Left-Marcos-Erap impeachment alliance a respectability boost.

GMA is now relying on parallel groups to run her presidency, harrumphed former Education Secretary Florencio Abad, while the representative of the meddlesome Namfrel and Makati Business Club looked on approvingly.

So it is now wrong for a President to tap her congressional and administration allies to conduct political and PR campaigns for her, but it is kosher for the USAID-funded Agile program —where many of the Anay Ten are fund recipients and active acolytes— to finance pro-globalization measures and install foreign consultants within the education, justice, finance, central bank, Supreme Court, internal revenue, and air transport offices?

Pagcor has been distributing pro-GMA largesse to media and the Church, insinuated Abad, conveniently forgetting that his own party mates and his very own island-province of Batanes have been among the lucky recipients of the Malacañang gravy.

There is a "grand conspiracy" to kill the impeachment process, bewailed Corazon Soliman, conveniently forgetting how her and like-minded NGOs short-circuited the Erap impeachment process, and were handsomely rewarded by a grateful GMA administration with the multibillion-peso Peace Bond deal.

If the Hyatt 10 wants Exhibit A on corruption at the highest levels, why, all they have to do is turn around and ask their colleague, former Trade Secretary Juan Santos, how corporate governance and union busting merrily went hand-in-hand when he was at the helm of strife-torn Nestle.

The left-wing KMU even managed to smuggle out internal documents from Nestlé detailing limousine and other expenses whenever the Philippine labor secretary visits Switzerland and attends International Labor Organization meetings.

Or ask Cesar Purisima the kind of creative accounting the SGV resorted to in the Piltel and Victorias Milling fiascos.

Incredibly, one of the crimes for which GMA now stands accused is the massacre of left-wing protesters in Hacienda Luisita, owned by the family of former President Aquino.

Dozens of peasants were similarly mowed down in Mendiola during Corazon Aquino's administration; years later, a second episode happened right in the Cojuangco fiefdom.

For these, GMA gets impeached?

Santos a near 'has-Ben'

INSURANCE Commissioner Benjamin "Ben" Santos, by his own admission, had called for a press conference on Sunday to announce his resignation.

Between then and yesterday, amid intense, last-minute lobbying, Santos did not turn in his resignation.

Malacañang, for its part, deferred the announcement of Santos' replacement, career Deputy Commissioner Vida Chiong, pending, according to the grapevine, her having successfully overcome unexplained wealth issues.

Chiong is currently on a floating status, with Santos instituting a complaint with the Ombudsman against his putative replacement.

Santos himself is the object of a lobby by small insurance companies, with Bulacan Rep. Lorna Silverio as battering ram, who had failed to make the increased capitalization hurdle imposed by the Insurance Commission.

If the market grapevine is correct, the beleaguered commissioner counts taipan Alfonso Yuchengco and Philamlife chair and former Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia—industry heavyweights—among his silent supporters.

If you want a closer take on the industry and the commission's succession issues, Santos himself will be a speaker tomorrow, along with Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, at the day-long Capital Market Forum organized by The Asset magazine at the Peninsula.

Even SEC Chair Fe Barin will be there. It might also be a good time to ask why one of her commissioners, Jesus Martinez, has been struck by bureaucratic lightning again.

Less luggage allowance

BAD news for US-bound economy class passengers.

Because of rising fuel prices, Northwest, KLM, and Continental will be simultaneously cutting luggage allowance for economy class tickets purchased starting tomorrow, Sept. 1.

From 70 pounds/luggage, the checked-in allowance for North and South American destinations has been reduced to 50 pounds/luggage, for a maximum of two checked-in pieces.

Bags weighing between 51 and 70 pounds will henceforth be charged an extra $25/bag as overweight fee.

The new luggage restrictions do not cover business class passengers.

Sightings

- JUETENG canaries Sandra Cam and "Boy" Mayor having a cozy lunch at Sonia's Garden in Tagaytay on Friday.
- JAGUAR dealer Wellington Soong and investment banker Noel Escaler playing 108 holes, in a dawn-to-dusk duel over imagined female frustrations, at the Country Club.

Heard through the grapevine

FOR those who want to jump the year-long queue for the hot-selling Fortuner, the trick is not to pay cash, but to purchase the SUV on installment basis through Toyota in-house financing.

A one-year installment plan will add about 8 percent over the cash purchase price, a margin that Toyota could use in the face of runaway steel costs.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

243 new ports to open

By Christine A. Gaylican

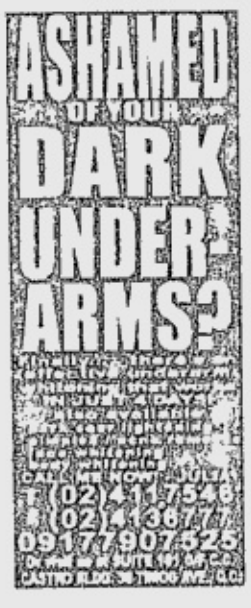
LOCAL trade is expected to get a boost with the opening this year of 243 more ports along the government's roll-on, roll-off nautical transport system.

The Department of Agriculture said the ports would provide alternative routes to ease the flow of agriculture and other commodities from the provinces to the cities.

According to Assistant Secretary Salvador Salacup, the Aboitiz Group's shipping subsidiary has committed to serve additional routes along the system and extend discounts to shippers of commodities from the south.

Salacup said traders using the RO-RO system would enjoy not only lower cargo-handling costs, but faster cargo loading and discharging, minimized pilferage and damages, and on-time cargo loading and delivery.

"We cannot anymore afford to lose P30 billion annually in waste and spoilage of fruits and vegetables, as well as P4.5 billion for corn spillage loss," he added.



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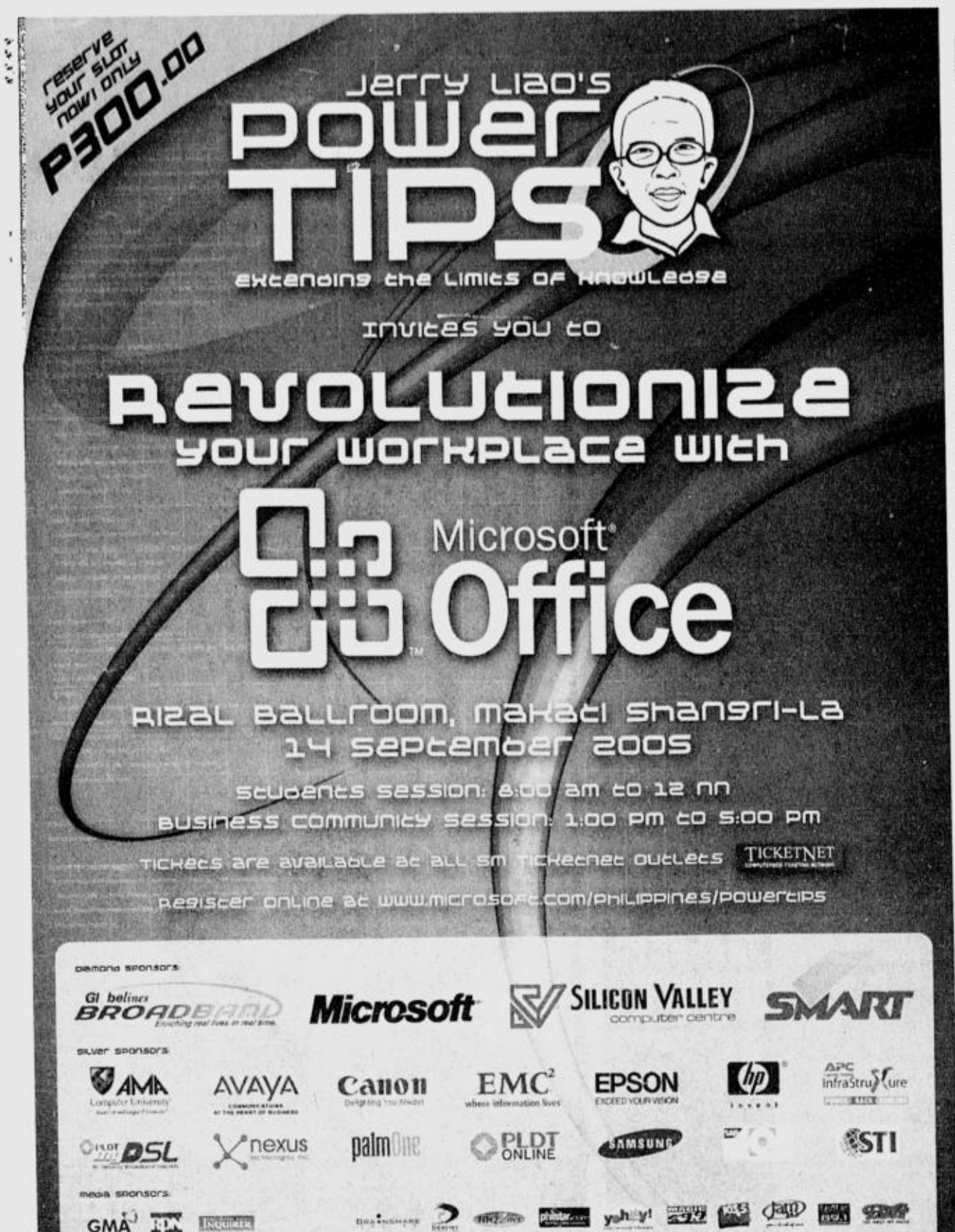


More PNB assets sold

PHILIPPINE National Bank has sold P1.25 billion worth of idle assets through its monthly public auctions that started in August 2003.

PNB EVP and asset management sector head Federico Cadiz said the competitive bid format enabled the bank to generate a gross margin of 35 percent over the book value of the assets.

The assets sold were mostly residential property worth P1 million and below. PNB has held 40 auctions so far and is scheduled to hold 15 more this year.

"We are the first bank to hold regular auctions outside Metro Manila and we post a success rate of 30 percent per auction," Cadiz said.

PNB vice president and auction head Romeo Crisostomo attributed the good sales turnout to the bank's extensive branch network. He said the bank's more than 300 branches allowed the mounting of auctions in selected cities. *Doris C. Dumlao*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 30, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.05	4.05	3.75	4.05	34,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31	32	31	32	49,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52	53	52	53	687,800
China Banking Corp.	805	820	805	810	810
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	20	20	20	20	2,000
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	400
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	710,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	51	51.5	51	51.5	106,900
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.5	18.5	42,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	28	27.5	28	953,300
Philippine National Bank	38	38	38	38	8,800
Phil. Savings Bank	33	33	33	33	700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14	14	14	14	85,900
Security Bank Corp.	29.5	30	29.5	30	34,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	30	30	30	30	4,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2720	2760	2720	2760	2,220
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2015	2030	2015	2030	1,040
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1	1.02	1	1.02	2,976,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	720	735	720	730	36,850
Ipeople Inc.	2.75	2.9	2.75	2.9	103,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	12,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	10,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3	3.05	3	3.05	1,024,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1560	1595	1555	1580	143,650
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.017	0.015	0.017	207,100,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	17,800
Manila Electric Co. B	23	23	22.75	23	261,500
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	364,000
Petron Corp.	3.15	3.25	3.15	3.25	2,519,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.3	158,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	50,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.1	222,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.06	1.06	9,336,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3	3	3	3	441,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.64	0.64	60,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	31.5	30	31.5	13,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	32.5	33	32.5	33	475,800
RFM Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	150,000
San Miguel Corp. A	67	67	66	66.5	136,500
San Miguel Corp. B	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	358,500
Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	16	16	1,300
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,730,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.008	43,000,000
Ayala Corp.	300	305	297.5	300	91,050
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	110,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	5,607,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	3,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.04	2.1	2.04	2.1	1,510,000
APC Group Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	80,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	20,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.65	0.69	0.65	0.68	1,450,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.78	0.81	0.78	0.81	70,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.08	1.12	1.08	1.08	8,158,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.245	0.25	0.245	0.25	2,550,000
CADP Group Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	50,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.195	60,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	1,750,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	1,153,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.6	396,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	43	43	42.5	43	199,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	800,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.45	3.4	3.45	350,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.76	1.76	85,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.34	1.36	1.34	1.36	4,045,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	15,660,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.08	1.1	1	1	120,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	660,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	60,000
SM Investments Corp.	211	213	205	207	547,430
South China Resources Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	50,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.17	1,670,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	720,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	45,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.65	0.66	0.65	0.66	540,000
PICOP Resources Inc.	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	500,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.93	0.94	0.93	0.94	1,050,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	50,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.46	1.48	1,300,000
Manila Jockey Club	3	3	3	3	20,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	800,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	238,300
PLDT 10% Pref Series AA	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.2	8.4	8.2	8.4	6,245,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	10,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	640,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	330,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	1,440,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.38	2,621,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.205	0.18	0.18	100,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	520,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4	4	4	4	26,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.16	0.165	0.16	0.16	1,100,000
SM Development Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	28,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.1	7.3	7.1	7.2	13,762,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	82,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.8	7.3	6.7	7	2,883,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.5	9	8.5	9	175,000
Benguet Corp. B	25	25	25	25	4,100
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.08	2.12	2	2.08	105,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	18,400,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.35	2,890,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	44,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	13,600,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	38,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.85	0.87	0.85	0.85	5,060,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.98	1.06	0.98	1.04	10,870,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28	28	27.5	27.5	45,600
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.35	0.36	0.34	0.36	3,770,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	19,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	14,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	80,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	40,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.5	3.5	120,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	1,240,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.42	490,000

DISCLOSURES

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. said it was exploring the possibility of providing direct-to-home (DTH) satellite television service in the Philippines. In this regard, discussions between the PLDT Group and certain DTH satellite television service franchise holders, including Philippine Multi-Media Systems Inc., operator of Dream Satellite TV, are ongoing.

***

ABRA Mining & Industrial Corp.'s board appointed directors James G. Beloy, Edgar Lee Rodriqueza, Conde Claro C. Venus, Amelia G. Beloy and Jeremias B. Beloy, to head the following committees: Audit, nomination, and compensation and remuneration.

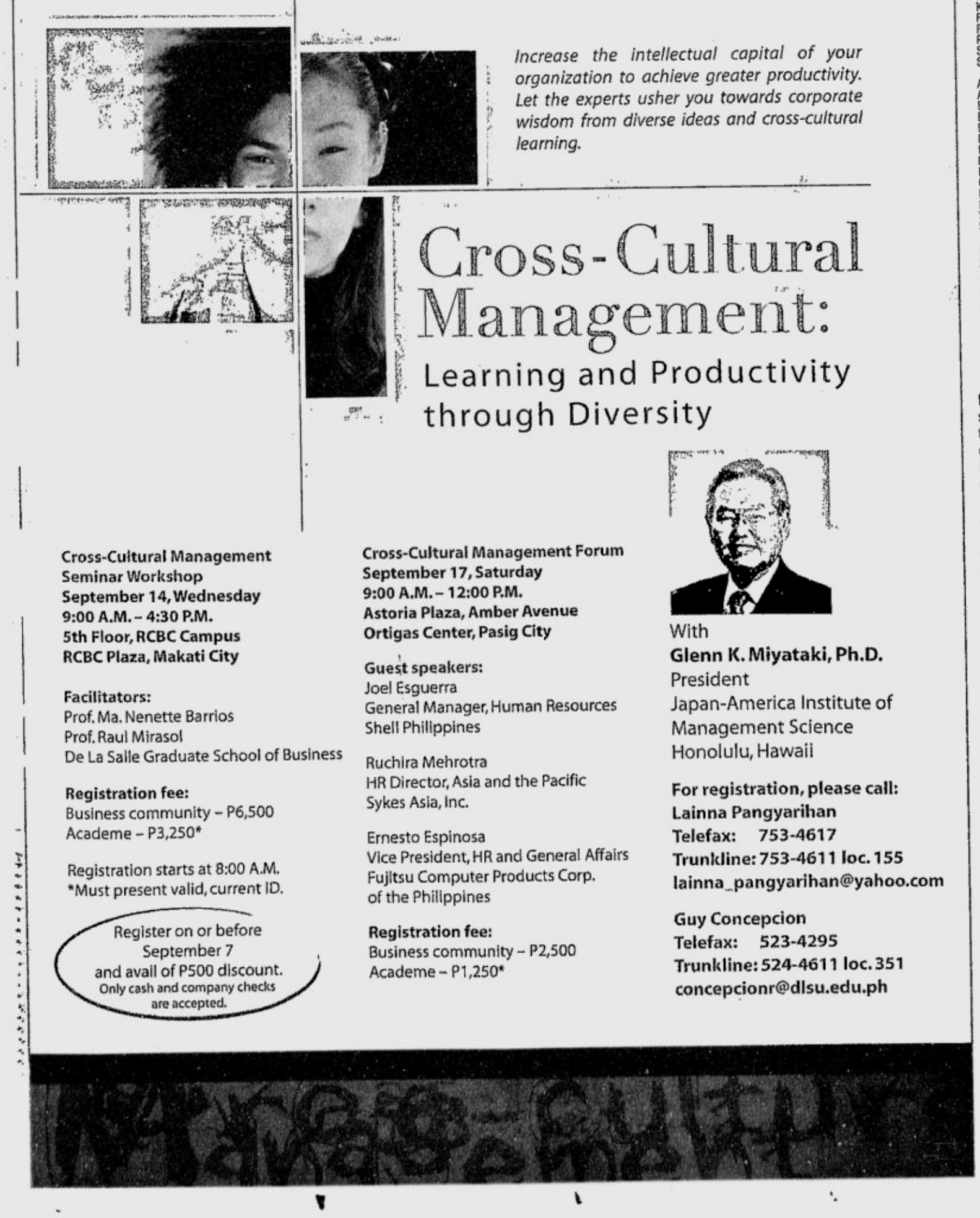
***

BASIC Consolidated Inc. approved in principle the proposal of Forum Energy Plc. (FEP) to acquire Basic Petroleum and Minerals Inc., a BCI subsidiary, in consideration of, among others, cash and shares of FEP.

Compiled by Erika A. Sarmiento, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

August 30, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.817862108	1.000000	56.0520
Japan	Yen	0.007395	0.009042	0.5068
United Kingdom	Pound	1.469126	1.796300	100.6862
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105274	0.128718	7.2149
Switzerland	Franc	0.645307	0.789017	44.2260
Canada	Dollar	0.682633	0.834655	46.7841
Singapore	Dollar	0.48636	0.594672	33.3326
Australia	Dollar	0.61586	0.753012	42.2078
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.169453	2.652590	148.6830
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.218114	0.266688	14.9484
Brunei	Dollar	0.484918	0.592909	33.2337
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000076	0.000093	0.0052
Thailand	Baht	0.019823	0.024237	1.3585
UAE	Dirham	0.222681	0.272272	15.2614
Euro	Euro	1	1.222700	68.5348
Argentina	Peso	0.281294	0.343938	19.2784
Brazil	REAL	0.339081	0.414594	23.2388
Denmark	Kroner	0.134111	0.163977	9.1912
India	Rupee	0.018647	0.022800	1.2780
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.217026	0.265358	14.8738
Mexico	New Peso	0.075379	0.092166	5.1661
New Zealand	Dollar	0.567526	0.693914	38.8953
Norway	Kroner	0.126383	0.154528	8.6616
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013709	0.016762	0.9395
South Africa	Rand	0.12685	0.155099	8.6936
Korea	Won	0.000793	0.000970	0.0544
Sweden	Kroner	0.107258	0.131144	7.3509
Syria	Pound	0.015755	0.019264	1.0798
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025215	0.030830	1.7281
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000381	0.000466	0.0261



Aussie fund manager, Araneta firm buy into ISM

By Clarissa S. Batino

AN AUSTRALIAN fund manager and a company linked to the Araneta Group are among the three companies that are buying into ISM Communications Corp. controlled by former Trade minister Roberto Ongpin.

According to documents lodged at the Securities and Exchange Commission, Ashmore Investment Management Ltd., Araza Resources Inc. chaired by Gregorio Araneta III and Boerstar Corp. are putting in $8.2 million into the Ongpin company in exchange for a roughly 45-percent stake in ISM.

The listed firm will issue new shares to accommodate the entry of the new investors, the documents said.

Existing shareholders of ISM include Ongpin's Phil Web Inc., the Ortigas Group and the Nieto Group through Aerocom Investors & Managers Inc.

Eric Recto, president of ISM said that some of the existing owners of the company were also shareholders of the incoming investors.

Ashmore Investment will act as trustee for funds under management, an official said in an interview.

The Australian firm specializes in emerging markets fund management.

ISM will use the $8.2-million infusion to finance its acquisition of the 40-percent stake of Australian Gigahertz Network International Ltd. in Eastern Telecommunications Phils. Inc.

Recto said the three new investors were ready to remit the money to ISM. The company's board had also approved their entry.

The new capital is enough to finance the purchase of the Australian firm's stake in ETPI, the ISM chief said.

"We have readied the necessary resources to allow us to pursue the acquisition of AGNI's stake in Eastern Telecoms," said Recto in an interview.

Recto said ISM will turn around the operations of ETPI and make it profitable again after six years of losses.

He said the Ongpin Group would like to complete its purchase of 57.7 percent of ETPI this year to breathe new life into the country's oldest telecommunications company.

Eastern Telecoms had accumulated more than P1.5 billion in losses through the years and had not had a fresh capital infusion during the period.

Gov't rejects . . .

From page B1

P1.11 billion, lower than the P2 billion on offer for each maturity.

Had the Treasury accepted all bids for the 182- and 364-day bills, their rates would have gone up to 7.738 percent and 8.793 percent.

"I think the market was confused about the supply (of government securities). The market was totally lost," said National Treasurer Omar Cruz in a briefing after yesterday's auction.

Cruz said the reason banks asked for high rates and did not raise much bids was because of the false thinking that the government would borrow more from the local market through the issuance of tetail treasury bonds (RTBs).

While Cruz said that the government would float RTBs, he clarified that the amount of domestic borrowings would be the same. With the issuance of RTBs, the government would reduce its issuance of the regular treasury bonds.

"There will be no excess supply. We will not issue RTBs without taking away some T-bonds. I want to make it clear to the market that the borrowing program has not changed," Cruz said.

He said that by wrongly thinking the government would increase the amount of its domestic borrowing, market players tried to reduce their demand for the T-bills to be able to avail themselves of the RTBs.

"The government does not want to overborrow," Cruz stressed.

The Treasury is set to auction today 5-year RTBs worth 10 billion to determine the coupon rate for the retail debt instrument. In the following weeks, the Treasury will sell an additional P30 billion worth of RTBs at a rate that will be determined in today's auction.

With the issuance of the RTBs, the Treasury would no longer issue two-, three- and four-year T-bonds for the remainder of the year, Cruz stressed.

Shares close . . .

From page B1

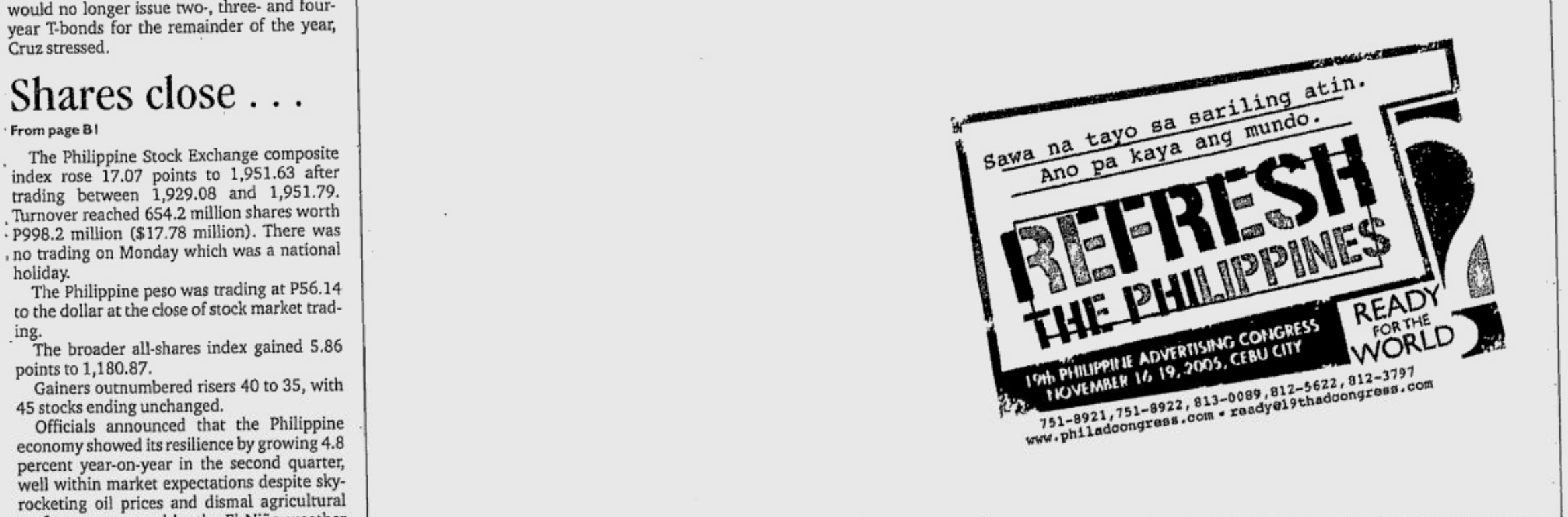
The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 17.07 points to 1,951.63 after trading between 1,929.08 and 1,951.79. Turnover reached 654.2 million shares worth P998.2 million ($17.78 million). There was no trading on Monday which was a national holiday.

The Philippine peso was trading at P56.14 to the dollar at the close of stock market trading.

The broader all-shares index gained 5.86 points to 1,180.87.

Gainers outnumbered risers 40 to 35, with 45 stocks ending unchanged.

Officials announced that the Philippine economy showed its resilience by growing 4.8 percent year-on-year in the second quarter, well within market expectations despite skyrocketing oil prices and dismal agricultural performance caused by the El Niño weather phenomenon. *AFP*



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Pinay flourishes in multicultural world of Disney publishing

CHEN

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

CAREER TALES

SHE may not put tiny tots to bed with promises of sweet dreams of a flying boy who never want to grow up or of Donald Duck and his adorable nephews, but she places educational yet entertaining books into tiny young hands eager for a bedtime story.

As the head and regional director of Asia Pacific for the publishing division of the Walt Disney Company, Dulce Lim Chen manages the company's publishing business making sure that it continues to grow and capture opportunities in the Asia Pacific. Although she deals with business partners and colleagues from the publishing industry, the ultimate goal is to bring storybooks, activity workbooks, English language learning products, magazines, comics, novelty lines and craft books to children from preschool to preteens. Presently, under Chen's leadership, Walt Disney has reached children in 14 countries and regions in 10 languages in Asia Pacific.

Frequent flyer

Although she is based in Hong Kong, Chen can often be found flying in and out of the country to visit the markets she manages within the Asia Pacific region. She frequently visits China, and not just key cities like Beijing and Shanghai; she can often be found in exotic places like Nanjing, Hangzhou, Zhejiang and Dalian. "China is fast becoming our leading market. It has grown so fast, so much in the last five years. Over the years, it is remarkable to see the changes happening before your eyes," notes the regional director.

Two to three times a year, Chen is in Europe for global meetings and trade shows. Other times, she's in their New York headquarters. Due to her frequent travels, Chen interacts with various nationalities and cultures. "I love dealing with people coming from different cultures and backgrounds as in the process, you learn so much. I treasure the friends I have made over the years from various places," shares Chen.

Her frequent travels also guarantee variety and sometimes even unpredictability. "One moment, one market or country is booming, next it is down and you need to manage it."

Chen relishes the fact that her position enables her to learn other things apart from the publishing industry. Her job exposes her to different languages, cultures and even histories. Sometimes, she witnesses history as it unfolds. "Like observing China making its dramatic leap during the last several years and experiencing the changes during my constant visits there over the years," she cites.

Multicultural milieu

Chen enjoys the challenge of working for a multinational and multicultural company. It is both enriching and stimulating to be working with talented individuals from all over the world. Hong Kong, the Asia Pacific headquarters of a lot of multinational companies, is a vibrant community that attracts a lot of expatriates. Sometimes, she claims that she would be having dinner with 10 different nationalities at one time. "It could be competitive and stressful but at the end of the day, we work well with each other because we respect and appreciate the skills that each individual brings to the table and our achievements and accomplishments."

Disney's regional director takes advantage of the diversity by learning from the people she meets. "It also helps to be eternally curious—constantly learning more about the industry, about issues that interest me and speaking and listening to people. It is amazing how much one can learn from the wisdom of others."

Hong Kong and American multinational companies in general, according to Chen, work at a very fast pace. Chen is not the least bit daunted; she prefers the pace because she gets to accomplish a lot. She also appreciates how everything in Hong Kong is efficient and how bureaucracy is minimal.

Stress and sanity

The unpredictability of the business and the frequent travels demand a lot from Chen. One moment she's in an urbanized upscale office in Europe looking out through snow-frosted windows, the next moment she's in a small traditional office of a family-owned business in India or Thailand.

In Hong Kong, her days are crammed with meetings, conference calls, business review conference calls or product launches. She often meets with business partners, business prospects and her internal staff. Between meetings, she finds time to brainstorm on strategies and new initiatives, look at opportunities in the Asia Pacific countries or close deals and contracts.

To keep her sanity and maintain her well-being, she makes it a point to swim or go to the gym 30 minutes a day and maintain a healthy lifestyle. On top of that, she tries to maintain balance in her life. "The key to managing is to make sure that you keep perspective, a sense of balance, optimism, humor and an open mind," says Chen.

Passion for publishing

Passion is also key to Chen's survival in the fast-paced world of publishing. "I have always worked in the media and publishing industry. It is an industry I am passionate about." After having worked for Time Warner Philippines for several years, she was transferred to the Hong Kong Asia Pacific offices as a manager in the early 90s. She was also assigned to Singapore before she was recruited by Disney Publishing in 1997. At the turn of the millennium, her responsibilities took on a larger scale. By 2000, she was promoted to head the business.

The first Asian to head the Asia Pacific Publishing business for Disney, Chen claims she owes it to having a good business sense, management and negotiation skills and good instinct about people and the business. "Keep your word, be fair and have integrity in dealing with people," she adds. "Be realistic but optimistic. When occasionally life throws you a lemon, make lemonade out of it! Learn from your mistakes and from people you admire. Be able to speak out and keep a sense of humor and faith. It is amazing how much it keeps you on even keel."

True Filipino

Although she has lived most of her adult life abroad, Chen still considers the Philippines as her home. She traces her roots back to Albay where she was born and raised until she moved to Manila for college at the University of the Philippines Diliman. Chinese blood runs through her veins from her great great grandfather and she's also married to a Chinese-American. This is why people often mistake her as Chinese but she claims she's every bit a Filipino.

Chen started out wanting to be a doctor, but according to her, life never travels in a linear path. The curved road she took eventually brought her to media and publishing. She has no regrets. When a busy and stressful work day comes to an end, what gives her restful sleep is the thought of children smiling with sweet dreams and a Disney storybook clutched in their hands.

(*E-mail feedback to* candyvillanueva-@pldtdsl.net)

Interior designer offers 'rent-a-hausband' service

By Ime Morales Aznar
Contributor

ALL ABOUT WORK

THOSE who don't have a handyman in the house know that looking for someone who can replace the broken doorknob, fix the water pipes, seal a leaking roof, or build a kitchen shelf can be quite a challenge. People who live alone, for example, may find it hard to do these things on their own. Even fathers and husbands may be too busy with work, or may not be inclined to do minor home repairs and construction. Vans Jamora, interior design consultant, saw this need and set up a home repair specialists company, which he aptly named Rent-A-Hausband.

"As a designer, I have projects most of the time," Jamora relates. "But the carpenters and other skilled workers I work with sometimes ask me for projects, and I don't have anything for them." So in order to give them a steady flow of work and income, however small, Jamora started his handyman services last year and resolved to "look for projects, instead of waiting for them to come."

Eye for design

Even with the new home repair company, Jamora's work still largely involves interior designing. His basic tools have always been his great eye for design and his intrinsic ability to create beautiful drawings. In fact, when he was still studying at the Philippine School of Interior Design, he excelled as a student and would often get compliments for his work. "That's how I knew that it was really for me," he says.

A student can study interior design at PSID where, according Jamora, there are very good professors who are also practicing interior designers. "Other schools also offer the course like UST, PWU, UP, Holy Spirit, Assumption," he says. Those who have the resources choose to study at the New York School of Interior Design.

The work

After graduation, an interior design student will have to take and pass the board exams before getting a license as interior designer. Demand for interior designers are not that big here, Jamora says, but the industry is steadily growing. "Judging from the work that we get, the furniture and home accessories shops that are now opening, the lifestyle shows, I could say that the industry is doing well."

Fresh graduates have several career options like working in furniture stores as sales designer, in malls as window display artist, or they could apply for work in architectural or interior design firms. "They can even work abroad—there is a demand for designers in the Middle East," Jamora says. According to him, Filipino interior designers, in fact, have a good reputation in many countries abroad, like Singapore. "I think it's because Filipino designers really have a good eye for design."

Everyday tasks vary depending on the kind of work an interior designer has. But for Jamora who is a freelance designer, his responsibilities involve meeting with clients to get the requirements, site visits, taking photos and measurements, presentation of initial concepts, sample materials, preliminary drawings and proposals. Then comes the actual execution of the design. "I supervise, meet with contractors, coordinate with them, and check that everything is going according to the specified plan."

Personal touch

As with any other service-oriented profession, client satisfaction is very important in interior designing. Jamora reveals that if a client is not satisfied, he feels guilty. "That's why I don't do too many projects all at the same time. I make sure I give hands-on service to each one," he says. "I do the drawings myself, I could give the job to others but I don't; I am a perfectionist that way—even if I see a good design or a good piece, I always look for more options."

"To me designing is just like forming a puzzle, every piece should fit the design—from the smallest screw up to the biggest piece of furniture, I choose everything myself, I buy each item myself, with the client's approval of course, but I always give them options." Jamora explains that clients don't need to follow his designs. "I find out what they want, and I only enhance that." The client's taste is an important consideration, Jamora says, because they are the ones who will use the space anyway.

JAMORA

Jamora has designed restaurants, offices, exhibit booths, mall kiosks, and a salon. His projects, however, are mostly residential spaces like houses and condominiums. "The actual design process takes about two weeks, but I do it in one week. I also accept projects even if the budget is small," he says. Some of his designs don't require clients to spend a lot. "I can always adapt to a client's budget," he quips.

It's very important to make sure each creative project turns out as remarkable, and as unique, as possible. A design carries the designer's name, in that sense, each project is a calling card. "I get clients through referrals-when they like what they see, they ask who the designer is," Jamora explains. This "hausband's" inspired designs were all sketched and traced at his own home, amidst the play and laughter of his young children. "I like working at home, where the children are. I play with them in the daytime, and when they're asleep, I work. I get to spend quality time with them every day."

(*Send feedback to* blubitel@yahoo.com)

How working moms can build self-confidence

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

THERE'S a battle a work-at-home mom (WAHM) has to be prepared for. I know I didn't expect it when I chose to leave the corporate world and make a go at my career on my own. It's the battle for self-confidence.

I should have seen that a self-esteem crash was par for the course for anyone going through a transition. I found out it happens even to the most successful and most self-assured among us. When we experience a loss, a sudden change, an unexpected turn of events, the ground we stand on becomes shaky, we become unsure, suddenly uncertain. The boost that gave us the force to go for change loses steam and we are left to go on our own strength.

I didn't sense the enemy eroding my self-confidence until I was down with the flu for a total of three weeks and began having nightmares about being left all alone. The dreams were strange—they came when I was asleep and when I was awake. They spoke about being widowed, about being left alone without my children, about having lost my way on a journey. I'm no dream expert, but I understood the fear, the loss of independence, and the uncertainty ahead that the dreams captured.

I know you've had them, too, in one form or another. Things happen that knock the confidence out of us. We're suddenly afraid to propose our ideas, anxious about our choices, or too cynical to pursue our dreams. Caterina Rando, MA, MCC, author of "Learn to Power Think," and a keynote speaker and success coach, says that "when you crash, it is usually because your daily diet of life has not included enough confidence-causing foods."

In other words, many of us subsist on less than the recommended amount of confidence-boosting activities in our life. We fail to recognize that to cope with the many challenges life throws our way, we have to nourish our self-esteem. We have to take responsibility for not only taking forging ahead but making sure we have what it takes to hold our heads up high.

Here are some tips I've gathered from other working moms on their diet of confidence boosters.

Taking mental pit stops. Call it meditation, call it prayer, even journal keeping. It helps to devote a few minutes a day to stop and reflect on what you are dealing with, what you would like to deal with, and what you may have failed to deal with. The pit stops also help you identify and process your feelings so that you can create a clearing for confidence boosters. Chris Lowney, author of the book "Heroic Leadership" explains that having daily periods of reflection, at least 20 minutes spread out through the day, is one of the most powerful tools available to business leaders who are aiming for heroic accomplishments.

Take an attitude of gratitude. Oprah has said it over and over again. Taking the time to acknowledge our blessings assures us that we have so much to go on with. Very often, we get too focused on the breakdowns in our life, we don't recognize that there are on-going breakthroughs that can propel us ahead if only we take them time to claim them.

Examine your relationships and commitments. There may be some relationships that eat into your self-confidence. There may not be enough relationships that help you live the life you love. It may be time to let go of some friendships or to actively nurture the ones you already have.

Be responsible for your own well-being. If you take the time to reflect on your life, you will recognize the patterns that lead to a crash in your self-esteem. It could be lack of prayer time or because you are over worked. Or it could be lack of exercise or an unhealthy relationship. Find out what's missing that the presence of can help you regain your confidence.

Spend at least 20 minutes with your child. Nothing restores confidence as well as a chance to be a child again. Enter into your child's world. Spend at least 20 minutes following your child's agenda, getting involved in his pretend games, and soaking in how present he is in this very moment. In their world of innocence, all will always be well.

(*An Mercado-Alcantara is founding editor of Working Mom magazine. Your thoughts are welcome at* mwm@abs.pinoy-central.com.)

'I am bored at work!'

From page B7

Christian, you can look at every caller as "loving a neighbor" in need of your help and guidance. You mentioned customers who erode your self-esteem. How do you deal with an irate customer? Use the hot balloon technique. What do you do to a hot balloon so it does not burst? You are right, you slowly let the air out. An angry customer has a concern that he or she wants to convey. So listen with understanding. Don't take things personally, continue to act calmly like a true professional. Remember it is not about you, but the complaint or task.

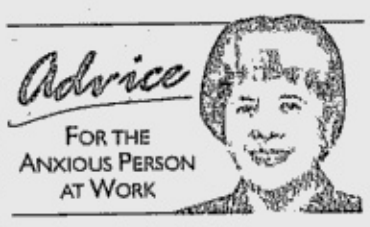
Finally, you can view your work as art that needs to be constantly polished and perfected. When one is engaged in doing a piece of art, work becomes important for its own sake. One cannot get bored.

I hope these tips help you to overcome boredom at work. God bless!

(*Tita D. Puangco is chief executive officer of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Her company is engaged in strategy management, change implementation, human resource systems, management development and employee training. Send feedback through e-mail to* advice-@ancillaedc.com.ph or fax to 892-2902)

'I am bored at work!'

By Tita Datu Puangco



I AM a call center agent connected with a multinational company. I have been in this work for the past two years. I think I am bored with my work. All I do is handle customer queries and complaints all day or all night (depending on my shifting schedules). There are some customers who have the effect of lowering my self-esteem.

There are times when I think I should switch to a job that is less difficult and stressful. But when I look at the pay I receive at the end of the month, I feel better. I am earning more money then my former classmates. I am sending a younger sister to school. I don't want to risk her studies by changing jobs right now.

Please tell me how I can motivate myself. My supervisor at work is not very encouraging. When we share our sentiments with her, she reminds us that if we want to leave our jobs, many people can easily fill our positions. Please help me.

Bored at Work

I empathize with you. There are low moments like this one that you are presently experiencing. But don't get discouraged. We have good days and low days.

Let me share with you some of the techniques that I use when I encounter boredom. One is to try to focus on the present moment. This means I do not focus on the past, for the past is gone forever. While I have a vision, I don't get attached to the future. The only reality is the moment I am living right now. In the moment, I do my best of what is required of me.

I am in an executive coaching session with a client, I forget myself and focus completely on what the client is saying. When I am conducting a training program, I set aside everything else including my worries and problems. All that matters is my complete presence in that moment. My daughter talks to me; I have to give her my total attention. So the series of present moments allow me to be productive. I don't have a single moment to get bored. At the beginning, living the present moment is difficult, for our minds have the tendency to stray. Don't worry. Simply start again.

In your case, try to focus on the caller as if the person was right in front of you. Put yourself in a state of focused immersion without straining yourself. Focus on the meanings of your customer's words. Be calm and proactive. With your two-year experience, you must be able to tune in to handle properly with clarity and courtesy the needs of your customers. When the call is done, move gracefully to respond to the next call.

Another technique is to chunk your work. Sometimes if you think you have to sit out the next six to eight hours, you can get impatient. Instead, set achievable goals per hour. For example, target the number of calls you will make or take in the next hour as per company standards. Engage in a continuous improvement game. Always aim for a 100-percent customer satisfaction rating. After each call, classify the call, how well did you do?—poor, fair, good, excellent? If it falls below excellent, try to quickly think what to improve. Is it in the opening? Or improper probing? Or the weak capture of customer's needs? Or a lazy response? Strive for improvement in the next call. This way we compete with ourselves in always finding a better way. You can also reward yourself for a truly excellent day.

Chunking allows you to achieve the "state of flow" in your work. All of us have experienced long hours of work where we cannot seem to stop. One experiences a heightened state of enjoyment and concentration. These moments are achieved when awareness and action are one. We are absorbed by what we are doing, forgetting ourselves. We exercise control over what we are doing and are perfectly doing our tasks without anxiety.

Still another way is to view your work in the right perspective. Look at your work as service to the other person at the end of the line. If you are a

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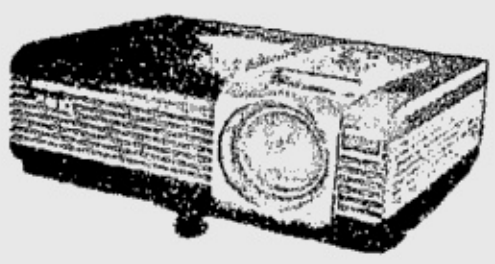

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Awaken from the nightmare called MPHL or Male Pattern Hair Loss. It is caused by increased levels of DHT (dihydrotestosterone) in the scalp[1]. MPHL is characterized by loss of visible hair over areas of your scalp[2]. This is a progressive condition and chances are it will get worse as time goes by if left untreated[1], unless you will be bold enough to do something about MPHL.

Research indicates that seeking early medical treatment can slow down continued hair loss and in some cases hair can even be regrown[1].

Ask your dermatologist about ways with which you can fight male pattern hair loss.

Don't lose sleep over MPHL. You just have to be bold, so you don't have to be bald.

you can reverse male pattern hair loss.[1,*]

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ProHAIR is a Healthcare Information Program of MSD in cooperation with the Philippine Dermatological Society

ProHAIR

Reference: 1. Libecco J and Bergfeld WF. Expert Opin Pharmacother 2004;5(4):933-940
2. Kaufman K. Eur J Dermatol 2002 12:38-49

* In studies, hair has been regrown in MPHL patients, but individual results may vary from patient to patient.
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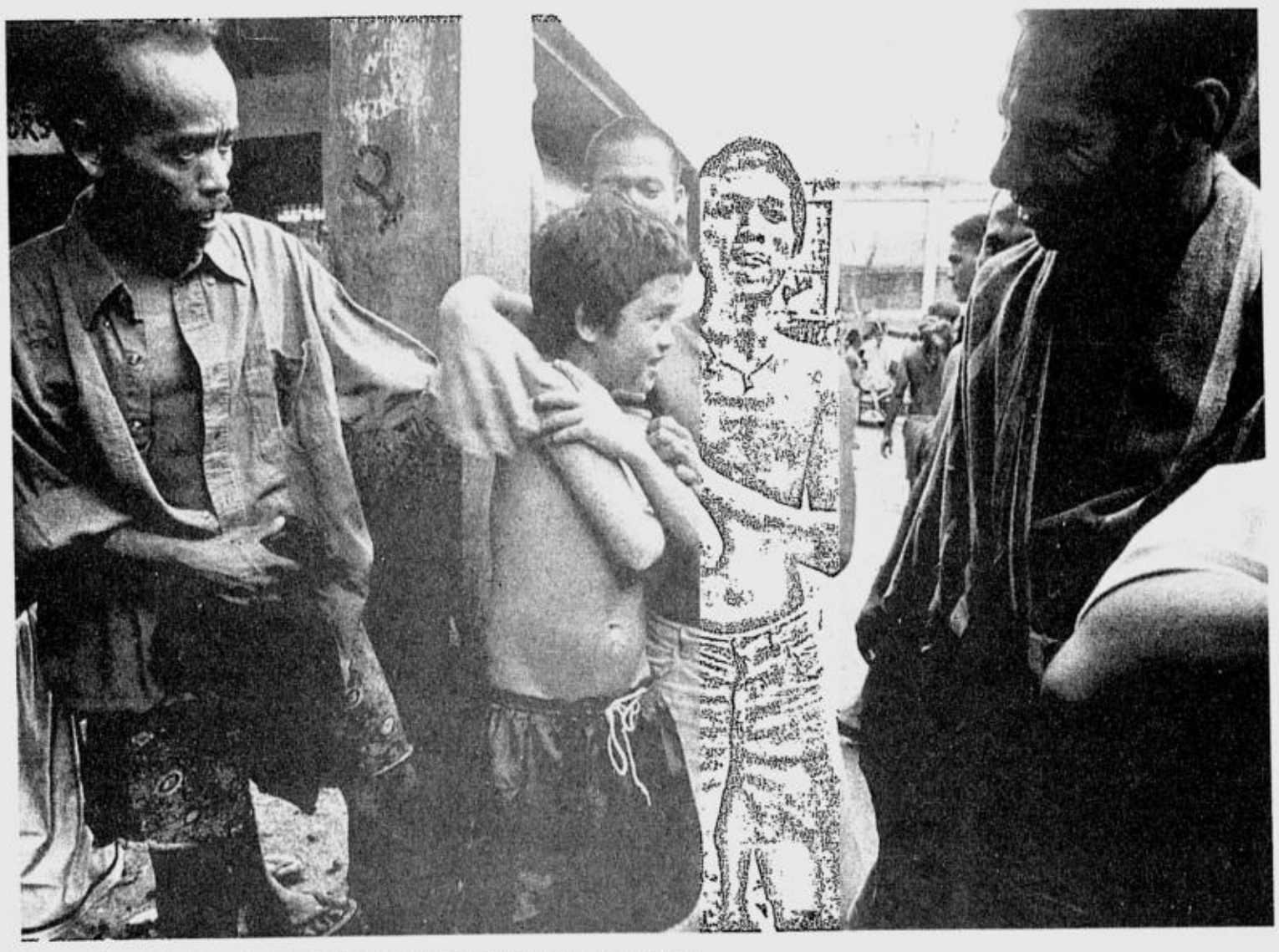

By putting this boy in prison are we teaching him a lesson?
Or are they?

10,000 children are detained in adult jails
every year. Surrounded by murderers,
rapists and addicts, they'll try to act tough,
be the big man. But they're not. They're kids.
90% of whom are first time offenders,
some in for just shoplifting food.
If you think they deserve a second chance,
please support the passage of the
Comprehensive Juvenile Justice System Bill
by writing to your Representatives now.

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Telodyaryo	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Tok Ko To		Linya		Teledyaryo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)					
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasan de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Opids	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Kampanerang Kuba	Pinoy Big Brother	Green Rose	Yes Yes Show			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		Best Of PBA				Sentro	Best Of PBA					Big News	Dokyu		ESPN Golf: Senior PGA Championships	
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hotelier	Shaman King	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Dama	Encantadia	Sugo	Atlic Cat	Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Iron Chef		Trading Spouses		Extreme Make-Over		Newswatch Now	Keep up the Good Work w/ Joey Lina		Pangako Mo
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		MTV		The Life And Hopes Of Jaime Cardinal Sin		Navy Medicine At War	BYK 101	Up Close And Personal	IBC News Tonite	Breaking Barriers	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop		New Life TV Shop				EZ Shop				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Superline Tv Shopping		Sheperds Voice	
Studio 23						Super Gals		Batman Beyond	Boyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	Mutant X	C S I (8:15 PM)		Las Vegas		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
MTV Philippines	One Bad Trip	Ultrasound	MTV Pop Inc		Newlyweds	Hanging Out At MTV	MTV Get Spotted	TRL		Massive	MTV Play	Dares		Moto Making The Video	MTV Lokal Brownbeat	Dismissed	Boiling Points	MTV Play	VH1 Video Collections
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Live!		My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	Main Sail	World News Asia		Your World Today	
Sports Plus						Sharpe 500 Highlights			Nigel Turnerversion	World's Greatest Auto Shows	Tour De France			Ultimate Fighting Championship				U.S. Open '05 Day3	
Cinemax			The Cowboy Way (3:45 PM)				The Tuxedo			The Hunted (7:15 PM)				The Life Of David Gale				Lady Killer (11:05PM)	
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Agency II		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	Ladies Man	Just Cause		Agency II		The Stranger Beside Me			Strong Medicine (10:35PM)		Just Cause (11:25PM)
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Unstoppable Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Wonderful World Of Disney			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Science Mysteries		Science Frontiers		The Future Is Wild		Kyakatoa				Hour China		Wild Tech		Carrier: Arsenal Of The Sea		Hour Asia	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR	SD Gundam Force	Machine Robo-Rescue	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Johnny Bravo	Time Squad	Thundercats	Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	Fairly Odd Parents- New Episode	U Pick Live: Spongebob Squarepants/Drake And Josh/My Dad The Rock Star/Weasel's Choice					All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Mario Mario	Sweat Drama	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's	E! Entertainment Special		Style Star	Life & Style		Clean House		Breathing Room	Genuine Article
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	One Tree Hill		Rockstar		J.A.G		Friends	One Tree Hill
AXN		House		Worst Case Scenario		Ripley's Believe It or Not		The Legend Of Condor Hero	The Legend Of Condor Hero	Cold Squad (Season IV)		Maximum Exposure (Season II)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Ultimate Guinness World Records	CSI: Miami (Season 3)		CSI: NY (Season I)	
JackTV	Shorties Watching Shorties	South Park	Banzai	Wwe Raw				Filler	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Dr Katz	Premium Blend	Shorties Watching Shorties	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Mad TV		The Sib Show	Street Smarts
ETC		Committed	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Eliminate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Complete Savages	What I Like About You	Veronica Mars		Last Comic Standing		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO			Gattaca (3:35 PM)				Dark Waters (5:20 PM)			Indiana Jones And The Last Crusade				The Door In The Floor				Willard (10:50PM)	
Star Movies				Air Rage			Laws Of Attraction (5:45 PM)			Diana: A Tribute To The People's Princess (7:15 PM)				Vertical Limit				Master And Commander: The Far Side Of The World (11:05PM)	
Cinema One		Banta Ng Kahapon			Saan Nagtatago Ang Pag-ibig					S2pid Luv			Persona	Di Na Natuto Sorry Na Pwede Ba? (9:15 PM)				Infection	
EWTN	The Sacraments Through The Ages	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Refurbishing The Soul	Faith Factor C	Story Keepers	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	EWTN Catholic Classiq	The Church And The Poor-Building Bridges	Mother Angelica Live Classics		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	One In Their Hearts: Holiness Of Priesthood	Deep Conversation: Deep Prayer	The Virtues: Seven Habits Of Champions	The Abundant Life	

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2005

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(PDI - AUG. 31, 2005)

UNIGEM PAWNSHOP 3-E N. Ramirez St. Quezon City. We sell all expired pledges on Sept. 8, 2005 at 9 AM. J. Enriquez Llc. Auctioneer

LEGAL NOTICE

Extrajudicial Settlement of the estate of the late ARCADIO DE GUIA per Doc. No. 319; Page No. 65; Book No. VII; Series of 2005 per Notatry Public Domingo G. Losa of Paranaque City (PDI-Aug. 17, 24 & 31, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ESPERANZA SUMULONG was extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc No. 225, Page No. 135, Book No. 3, Series of 2005 under Notary Public Hernand Gutierrez. (PDI-Aug. 17, & 24, 31 '05)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late sps. Julian and Christina Esquejo has been extrajudicially settled by their heirs as per Doc No. 319, Page No. 65, Book No. VII Series of 2005 Notary Public Edward F. Gutierrez of Quezon City
(PDI-Aug. 31, Sept. 1&8, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SEGUNDO SOLOMON & ESTER DEL MONTE has been extrajudicially settled by their heirs as per Doc #628, Page 126, Book XI, Series of 2005 before notary public Marcial Pe Benito of manila.
(PDI-Aug. 24, 31, & Sept. 7, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Overseas Workers Welfare Administration
OWWA Center Bldg., F.B. Harrison St., Cor. 7th St., Pasay City
P.O. Box 1617 Manila, Philippines, Zip Code-1300
Tels.: 891-7601 to 24 • Fax: 833-0187
Website: www.owwa.gov.ph

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that OWWA-Medicare Land Bank continuous form checks with Serial nos. 319251 to 320000 are missing. Any transactions involving these checks will not be honored by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA).

MARIANITO D. ROQUE
Administrator

(PDI – August 23, 27 & 31, 2005)

ERRATUM

In the ad of **Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC)** published in this paper on August 30, 2005, the value of the RAB over the Second Regulatory Period with adjustments for the year 2010 column was omitted.

14. (d) The value of the RAB over the Second Regulatory Period with adjustments is forecast in the table below:

Particulars (PhP, Mn)	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
$RAB_{(t)o}$	159,457.9	164,843.7	176,152.4	180,937.5	180,691.5
$RAB\ RegDepn_{(t)}$	4,994.2	4,994.2	4,994.2	4,994.2	4,983.3
$Capex_{(t)}$	11,827.2	17,203.3	10,986.6	6,163.3	5,645.3
$Disposals_{(t)}$	997.7				
$Capex\ RegDepn_{(t)}$	449.6	900.4	1,207.4	1,415.1	1,638.2
$RAB_{(t)}$	164,843.7	176,152.4	180,937.5	180,691.5	179,715.2

Note: Assumed WACC of 22%, as recommended by Independent Expert, Prof. Tony Van Zijl, Ph.D.

Our Apologies.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Land Reform
Provincial Land Reform Office
J. Rosales Ave., Butuan City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DLR Agusan del Norte is inviting all licensed GE Survey Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for subdivision survey of collective Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA's) located within the municipalities of the province of Agusan del Norte with an estimated area of 1,200 has. more or less.

A pre bid conference will be held on September 16, 2005 at the address mentioned above at 10:00 A.M. However, deadline for submission of eligibility documents will be on September 12, 2005 until 5:00 P.M. only. Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 to the cashier.

(Sgd.) ATTY. NOWEH MECA E. PACAMALAN
BAC Chairperson

Noted:
(Sgd.) ANDRE B. ATEGA
OIC-PARO II

(PDI – August 19, 23 & 31, 2005)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project as stated below:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2005-242	600 units Personal Computers	P 25,800,000.00	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding of the above requirements is scheduled on **September 14, 2005** at **1:00 PM** and the Bid documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P3,000.00.**

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **September 1, 2005, 10:00 AM,** at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to **Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract** shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of **RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).**

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Bank.

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

(PDI - Aug. 24 & 31, 2005)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-INFRA), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder contracts:

General : Road Improvement Projects (Asphalting), Phase 3
Title :
Scope : Items of work include, but not limited to, asphalting, line ditching, cross drainage & slope protection

Particulars :

Package	ABC (PhP)	Duration (c.d.)	PCAB Category ARCC-based	Location	Plans and Bid Documents (PhP)
1	36,767,138.77	90	Medium A	1st district, Mainland Cebu	10,000.00
2	62,397,560.91	150	Medium B	2nd district, Mainland Cebu	20,000.00
3	39,108,846.92	100	Medium A	3rd district, Mainland Cebu	10,000.00
4	47,498,095.96	110	Medium A	4th district, Mainland Cebu	10,000.00
5	32,027,096.73	90	Medium A	5th district, Mainland Cebu	10,000.00
6	28,126,845.76	90	Medium A	4th district, Bantayan Island	10,000.00
7	35,074,414.95	100	Medium A	5th district, Camotes Island	10,000.00

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the ABC per package, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/ Screening and in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Submission of Eligibility Documents/Statements and Screening, Bid and Performance Securities, Pre-bidding Conferences, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract, shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of activities is as follows:

	BAC-INFRA Activities	Schedule
1.	Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	August 24-31, 2005
2.	Issuance of Eligibility Forms	August 24-31, 2005
3.	Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	September 02, 2005
4.	Notice of Eligibility Check Results	September 13, 2005
5.	Issuance of Plans and Bid Documents	September 16, 2005
6.	Pre-bid Conference	September 19, 2005
7.	Receipt and Opening of Bids	October 10, 2005

The BAC-INFRA Secretariat will issue to prospective bidder's Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Legislative and Engineering Building, Capitol Compound, Cebu City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent stating and specifying therein which Package/s they intend to undertake, and payment of non-refundable amount of Fifty Pesos (P50.00) for each Package to the Cash Division. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to, and may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check from, the aforementioned address. For further inquiries, one may call the Secretariat at (032) 416-5400 local 110.

The Secretariat will issue Bidding Documents including Plans and Specifications only to bidders declared by the BAC-INFRA who are found to be eligible to bid, upon payment to the Cash Division of a non-refundable amount as above-stated.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and, reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO T. HABIN
Chairman BAC-INFRA

(PDI – August 24 & 31, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Zambales
Municipality of Masinloc

OFFICE OF THE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The office of Bids and Awards Committee invites registered suppliers classified on Registration and Classification of Contractors to apply for pre-qualification and to submit bids for the following supplies:

Description of Supplies

1.) Procurement of one (1) unit Ambulance
2.) Procurement of various medical eqpmt. for the Birthing Stn./ Lying-in Clinic

Interested suppliers may obtain their pre-qualification statements and bid documents from BAC Chairman, Municipality of Masinloc, Province of Zambales upon payment of non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos only (PhP1,000.00).

Suppliers shall submit to the BAC not later than 10:00 a.m., Sept. 29, 2005 a) duly accomplished per-qualification stmnts. b) proposal for said project using the prescribe bid form. All particulars shall be governed by the provisions of IRR-RA 9184 concerning Gov't Procurement Reform Act.

Pre-Bid Conference : Sept. 22, 2005 @ 10:00 a.m.
Bid Opening : Sept. 29, 2005 @ 10:00 a.m.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids. To waive any defect or informality, assume no obligation whatsoever of indemnity to the bidders any expenses of loss that it may incur in the preparation of its bid, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. ELLENDER C. ECLEVIA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Aug. 31 & Sept.7, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
General Santos City

INVITATION TO ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of General Santos hereby invites interested bidders/suppliers registered by the G-EPS and accredited supplier of General Santos City for Eligibility and to Bid for the following projects/proposals.

Purchase of Electrical Supplies P4,132,780.00 and Purchase of Flood Control materials/supplies P4,524,390.00

Issuance of Bid Documents	–	September 2-7, 2005 (BAC Office, 2nd Flr. Right wing, City Hall, GSC)
Pre-Bidding Conference	–	September 8, 2005, 2:00 PM, City Mayor's Conference Room
Dropping of Bids	–	September 22, 2005, 10:00 AM BAC Office
Opening of Bids	–	September 22, 2005, 10:00, City Mayor's Conference Room

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-Qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidders are required to submit a Tax Clearance w/ audited financial statements duly stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institution pursuant to circular no. 01-2004 of GPPB.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The City Government assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid and also reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract in situations set forth in Section 41 of the IRR-A of R.A. 9184.

RODRIGO O. SALANGSANG
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Aug. 31 & Sept. 7, 2005)

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE

INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS

The assets are being offered on an "as-is, where-is" basis, at the Indicative Prices presented below. Sealed offers shall be received at 3:00 p.m. on the following schedules at PMO Conference Room, 6th Floor, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Asset Name/ Location	Indicative Price (In Philippine Currency)	Date of Submission Of Offers
Atlas Developer and Steel Industries, Inc. located at Jenny's Ave., Rosario, Pasig City **Lot No. 1** Buildings **Lot No. 2** Land and other improvements (i.e., perimeter fence and gate)	P760,000 P22,018,000	September 15, 2005
Elorde Sports and Toursim Development Corp. Land (5,500 sq.m.) located at Sucat Road, Parañaque City	P110,000.000	September 28, 2005

Offers for Lot No. 2 (Land and other improvements) in Atlas Developer and Steel Industries, Inc. shall only be opened if a valid and acceptable offer is received for Lot No. 1 (Buildings)

Interested parties may secure the sale documents from the PMO Marketing Dept. at non-refundable fees of P500.00 for each asset. A Gate Pass shall be issued to interested parties upon request.

Interested parties are advised to deal directly with the PMO Marketing Department.

For more information, please contact Ms. Melinda B. Cortez of the PMO Marketing Dept. at telephone nos. 892-2145 or 818-4733.

(PDI – August 29, 30 & 31, 2005)

TransCo

National Transmission Corporation

South Luzon Operations and Maintenance
Tel. No. : (02) 5206776; (02) 9814596/9814539/9814576/
9814577/9814578 LOC 4002; (049) 4114500 LOC. 4002

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID AD NO. TRANSCO 2005-09B

The National Transmission Corporation, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/ manufacturers/ distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder requirements:

PR NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BUDGET APPROVED
CAV-05-156	WOOD POLE, CREOSOTED, 55 FT.	4 PCS.	P 184,000.00
	WOOD POLE, CREOSOTED, 65 FT.	10 PCS.	550,000.00
	WOOD POLE, CREOSOTED, 70 FT.	6 PCS.	366,000.00
CAV-05-292	POLE, WOOD, CREOSOTED, 70 FT.	27 PCS.	1,620,000.00
	POLE, WOOD, CREOSOTED, 65 FT.	26 PCS.	1,430,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 5 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed items for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference(s), Evaluation Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is as follows:

	Activities	Schedule
1.	Issuance of bid Documents	August 31 - Sept.21, 2005
2.	Pre-bid Conference	September 8, 2005 1:30 PM
3.	Opening of Bids	September 22, 2005 1:30 PM

Bid Documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 minimum, or 0.01% of the ABC whichever is higher, per bidding schedule to the National Transmission Corporation Cashier. Complete set of Bid Documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat/MMS, Administration Division, SLO&M, San Vicente Biñan, Laguna.

The National Transmission Corporation assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The National Transmission Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality or defect therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

TRANSCO-South Luzon's other requirements are posted at the DBM Website: www.procurementservice.net.

(Sgd.) R.B. VERGARA
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – August 31, 2005)

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Mr. Donald L. Lim
President, Philippine Marketing Association
Vice-President for Marketing, Philippine Daily Inquirer

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Mr. Bienvenido S. Policarpio
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Ms. Pamela S. Adriano
Executive Vice President, Philippine Marketing Association
Central Marketing Services Head, Honda Cars-Makati

"MARKETING TOURISM-JAPANESE, KOREAN & CHINESE MARKETS"
Mr. Robert Lim Joseph, Jr.
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Mr. Joselito B. Ortega
Chairman and C.E.O, Brand Lab, Inc

"CAN WE UNIFY AND BE A VIABLE TOURIST DESTINATION?"
Mr. Mario Antonio G. Lopez
Professor, Asian Institute of Management

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Regular fee	P 1,750
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Group rate	5 regular delegates + 1 FREE
Student Rate	P 1,000 with meals P 600 without meals

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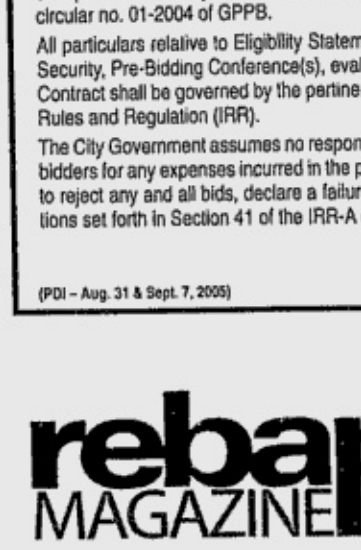

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Join the 2005 PowerSmash Open

POWERSMASH, the premier badminton facility in the country, is inviting all badminton enthusiasts to join the 2005 PowerSmash Open. The highly-awaited tournament will be held on October 8-9, 2005 at the PowerSmash Badminton Center, 2227 Pasong Tamo, Makati City. Cash prizes, trophies, medals and various gift items are up for grabs for the Men's Doubles and Ladies' Doubles champions in seven (7) categories (Class: Open; A-F levels). Varsity players, professional trainers and ex-National players (who have not been part of the RP Team for five years) are eligible to join in the open category. Leveling sessions will be on September 11 and 18, 2005. Please call 893-8299 for details.

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join the bereaved family of its Founding Partner

ATTY. ARTURO "Turing" MAMARIL DEL ROSARIO

in mourning his passing
He peacefully joined our Creator on August 29, 2005 at the age of 83.

His body lies in state at The Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 3, 2005 at The Heritage Park. immediately after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

In lieu of flowers, we know that the family would appreciate donations to the Sacred Heart Chapel at West Crame.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
1. Copy of Death Certificate
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

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MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
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Norma Adela A. Gaerlan-Carrodus

Peacefully joined our Lord and her late father Johnny Gaerlan on August 28, 2005 at the age of 65.

She will be missed by her loving husband **MICHAEL CARRODUS**; mother **JOSIE ARDALES**; children **MAUREEN & ARIEL, RAYMUND, JUAN MIGUEL**; grandchild **ALJOHN**; brothers, sisters & in-laws **BOB (†), LITA & DANNY ARTATES, DEANNA & DANNY DELA CRUZ, JOJO & GINA, ALVIN, MERCY & CECIL DE LEON, WILLY, GRACE & DARRELL ROLOFF, BEN PAUL & LIZA**; relatives, friends and loved ones. They request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

NORMA to family & friends was:

The needle & thread that sew to bind, the scissors that cut what she felt needed to be excised, the crochet hook that designed beautiful family relationships, the knitting needles that purled together prayed feelings, the macramé twine holding tight family togetherness, the golden thread use to embroider the Gaerlan tapestry of lasting connections.

The crafts BAUL: repository of Gaerlan lores. To everything there is a reason, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: Ec. 3.1

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

In Loving Memory on
The First Death Anniversary of our Beloved

BENJAMIN O. MORENTE

October 5, 1924 – August 31, 2004

Holy Masses will be offered at the following Churches:

St. Peter & St. Paul Parish, *Makati City*	6:30 pm
St. John Bosco Parish, *Makati City*	12:15 pm
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, *Makati City*	12:15 pm
Santuario de San Antonio, *Forbes Park, Makati City*	7:30 am
Mount Carmel Shrine, *New Manila, QC*	7:00 am
St. Anthony de Padua, *Singalong, Manila*	6:00 pm
St. Paul the Apostle Parish, *Mother Ignacia, QC*	6:00 pm
Immaculate Concepcion Parish, *Malvar, Batangas*	6:00 am
St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish, *Cupertino, CA, USA*	8:30 am
Church of the Ascencion, *Saratoga, CA, USA*	6:30 am
Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph, *San Jose, CA, USA*	7:30 am
Mission Santa Ynez, Solvang, *CA, USA*	7:00 am
St. Cyprian Church, Sunnyvale, *CA, USA*	7:30 am
St. Martin Church, Sunnyvale, *CA, USA*	7:30 am

The family requests relatives and friends to remember him in their prayers.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord." Matthew 10:39

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

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Gov't eyes ₱100-B hike in infra spending yearly

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT wants to jack up the infrastructure expenditure of both the public and private sectors by at least P100 billion a year to fuel economic growth.

In a presentation to the joint House and Senate committee on economic affairs, National Economic and Development Authority director-general Augusto Santos said the sources of the country's medium-term growth would be investments and exports, which in turn would drive up industry and services.

Poor infrastructure support and the perception of macroeconomic instability and corruption were considered the major reasons for the poor investment climate in the Philippines, previous surveys conducted by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank showed.

As of end-2004, investments in the Philippines as a ratio of gross domestic product stood at only 16.2 percent, deteriorating from as high as 21 percent in 2000. This was the lowest among peers given the 20.6 percent ratio in the countries with a similar BB credit rating and even far below Vietnam's 33.4 percent.

By 2010, Santos said the country's investment-to-GDP should rise to 28 percent, boosted by fresh inflows to the mining, power, information communication and technology, and housing sectors, as well as commercial development arising from land reclamation.

He also said the government's capital outlay as a share of GDP would jump to 4.2 percent by 2010, from only 2.6 percent in 2003.

Export earnings are expected to hit $50 billion in two years, from $39.68 billion in 2004 and the projected $42.85 billion this year.

As Philippine banks address their problematic assets under the Special Purpose Vehicle framework, the economic planning secretary said there would be more funds to improve the country's physical infrastructure. For 2005 and 2006 alone, Santos said the government was targeting to:

- complete the western, central and eastern nautical highways;
- increase access to major tourism destinations: Cebu-Bohol-Camiguin, Davao, Batangas, Palawan, Cordillera and Clark-Subic
- improve the accessibility of Subic-Clark by widening the McArthur Highway; and,
- decongest Manila through the improvement of the Skyway, the C-5 extension to Sucat and the South Luzon Expressway/Southern Tagalog Arterial Road Expressway.

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SMC poultry unit posts 14% revenue hike

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN MIGUEL Corp.'s poultry division said sales revenue grew 14 percent for the first seven months of the year to P9.1 billion over the same period last year.

The poultry business, which contributes more than a quarter of the whole San Miguel Food Group revenue, managed to increase sales volume by 11 percent despite higher cost of inputs.

The company said improvement in operational efficiency led to its better performance during the period.

Extensive marketing efforts also led to increased sales of poultry products. San Miguel's poultry division recently put up Magnolia chicken stations in major supermarkets nationwide as part of its campaign to increase chicken consumption in the country.

San Miguel expects the performance of its poultry unit to continue boosting the groups bottomline in the second half of the year.

In the meantime, the company commended the government's immediate response to the low avian flu strain, which hit an isolated duck farm in Bulacan few months ago.

Its quick action on the matter proved the government's willingness to admit the situation and confront it effectively.

The Australian Animal Health Laboratory cleared the Philippines of the avian virus.

BPI buys 91.5% of Prudential Bank

BANK of the Philippine Islands yesterday bought about 91.5 percent of the Santos family's Prudential Bank through block purchases at the Philippine Stock Exchange worth P5.6 billion.

The PSE has also lifted the suspension on the trading of Prudential Bank shares imposed last month when the BPI-Prudential deal was announced, allowing the country's second largest bank to consummate its latest bank acquisition.

Some 7.52 million Prudential Bank shares, out of its total issued shares of 8.22 million, were bought by BPI at P746.44 per share through two block sales at the PSE.

BPI intended to acquire up to 100 percent of Prudential shares but last Friday, the Las Piñas Regional Trial Court issued a temporary restraining order that prevented some minority shareholders from selling their shares.

The shares left out of the tender offering by BPI were held mostly by the Prudential Bank Employees Retirement Fund and individual stockholders, that included the Tibayan group.

Prudential Bank has about P60 billion in assets as of June 30, 2005 and a network of 187 branches and 52 automatic teller machines (ATM) nationwide that are seen to complement BPI's own 707 branches and 1,300 ATMs.

In another development, BPI and the Manila North Tollways Corp. yesterday tied up on a new cash payment scheme that would allow the reloading of North Luzon Expressway toll payments using the BPI Express Teller Card.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

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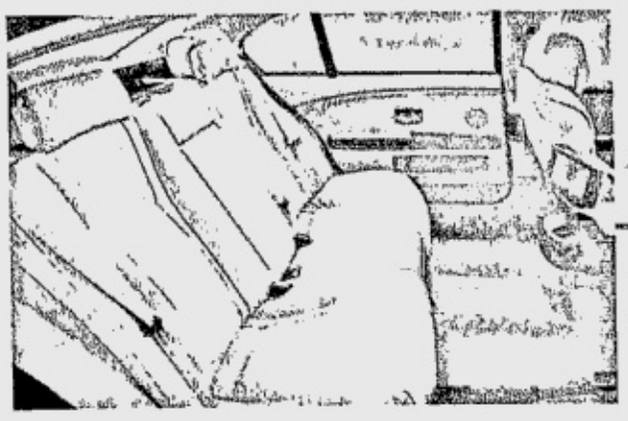

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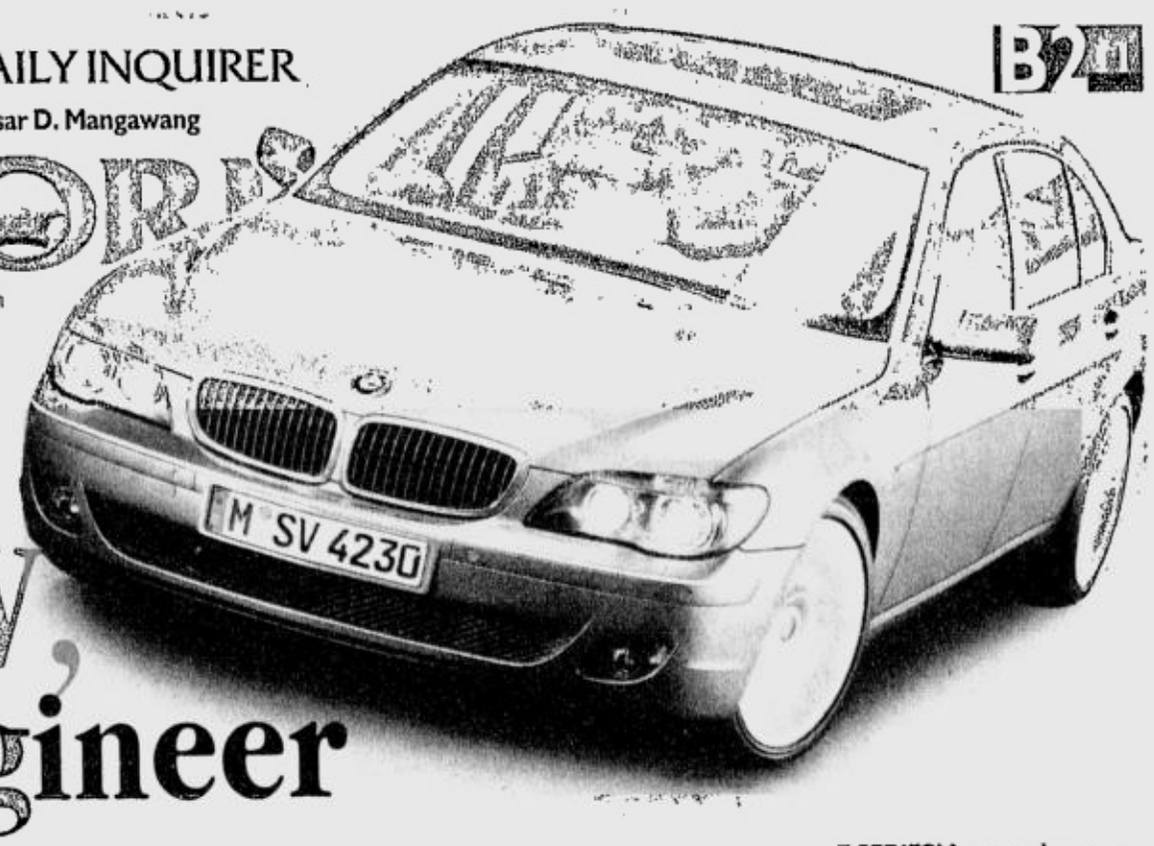

7 SERIES' front makes you want to stand up and salute.

The 7 Series POV, from curator to engineer to chauffeur

By Tessa R. Salazar

THREE contrasting lives were touched by the same car.

All of three came out with different points of view.

Ayala Museum recently hosted the "Evening of Masterpieces" with seven creations by national artists for visual arts, architects, painters and designers.

The seventh artwork turned out to be a car—the new BMW 7 Series.

'Felicitous' result

Dr. Florina Baker, Ayala Museum director, described the seventh masterwork as the "felicitous" result of a collaboration between design artist Christopher Edward Bangle, the group design director for the BMW Group, and Adrian van Hooydonk, the general manager of BMW design.

Outside the esteemed walls of the museum patiently waited Mang Dan, a chauffeur who claims to sit behind the steering wheel of previous 7 series every morning at 7 and only gets to leave it at 4 p.m. after shuttling VIPs from their hotels to anywhere they needed to be. Baker's presentation and Mang Dan's overtime vigil outside the museum, coincided with the arrival of the new BMW 7 Series in the Philippines.

The latest 7 Series, the 730 Li comes with straight-six gasoline engine, and the V8 gasoline engine is seen on the 4.8-liter 750 i/Li.

What's behind the hood

BMW engineers are loud and proud of what's behind the hood of the new 7 Series that comes with self-leveling Adaptive Drive Suspension, which integrates BMW's Dynamic Drive with its Electronic Damper Control system (EDC-C).

The new 730 Li, they say, is 22 pounds lighter than its predecessor.

The new power unit develops 190 kW/258 hp, with a maximum torque of 300 Nm/221 lb-ft. It consumes 4.7 percent less fuel despite the increase in engine output by 12 percent.

The 750 Li accelerates from 0 to 100 kph in 6 seconds. Against the former 4.4-liter power unit, the engine output is up by 10 percent (from a previous 245 kW/333 hp) and torque by 9 percent (previously 450 Nm/332 lb-ft). BMW engineers boast that despite a considerable increase in power and torque, the fuel consumption of the new 750 Li remains unchanged in the EU cycle at 11.4 liters/100 km (24.8 mpg Imp).

The BMW 730 Li's composite magnesium/aluminum crankcase and fully variable Valvetronic valve drive boast not only the highest output per liter, but also the best power-to-weight ratio in its class.

Unique sculpture

"Every BMW is a unique, man-made, three-dimensional sculpture produced meticulously, accurately and efficiently by machines. As with the creation of an artwork, the new BMW 7 series is the result of a creative form-finding process, giving birth to a form that expresses dynamism and presence," said Baker.

Mang Dan is just one of a small group of chauffeurs who get to drive this actual artwork. As one of the more senior chauffeurs of a five-star hotel in Makati, he had been chosen to "specialize" on the 7 Series last year. This means his job included not just driving VIPs, but grasping the car's many technical features as well.

This night, after the presentation of the new BMW 7 Series to the motoring media, he was tasked to drive them around on the new 730Li, demonstrating the performance aspect of the vehicle outside of the showroom.

Mang Dan had a handful of stories to tell as he drove this writer along the Makati Central Business District. "One time I drove an Indian executive out of town to check on a building he was planning to lease as a call center. He wasn't aware that I was driving 120 kph on a curve," he said.

Mang Dan added that it would take some "difficult" maneuvers to throw his guests from one side of the car to the other.

Design process

"The design process for this car began from the interior, emanating to the exterior, resulting in the sculptural form before you," Baker proudly explained to the Ayala Museum guests.

Later, Mang Dan would add: "You'd be surprised how well a huge car like the 7 Series handles on curves. Most of the hotel guests are lulled to sleep while we tightly negotiate the country's different driving conditions."

"The shape of the new 7 Series is not a traditional wedge, but rather a 3-dimensional masterwork that integrates the highest quality material with the latest technological features—the hallmarks of a true masterwork of art," said Baker.

Power, control blend

The combination of power and control, Mang Dan said, gets his job done within the time his hurried clients require him. Hotel guests running late for the airport are surprised to find that they would arrive at the airport within 15 to 20 minutes from Makati.

And during the trip, Mang Dan's guests would invariably ask him for assistance in operating the unique i-drive control for communication and entertainment, of which the amiable chauffeur would be more than happy to oblige.

It has a TV receiver and a CD changer with MP3, VCD and DVD functions for rear passengers. Its video images are automatically blackened on the front screen while the car is in motion, with only the sound being transmitted.

Only wish

Mang Dan's only wish for the car? That the air-conditioning system would get the car cool enough in the fastest possible time. "During summer, the air-con system just can't get the interior cool enough that quickly, especially when the car has been parked out in the open for too long," Mang Dan commented.

But is the 7 Series the most comfortable limousine in the world?

"It's the best car I've driven," Mang Dan replied.

"And since I've grown so familiar with this car inside and out, I consider it my second home," he added.

And in the Philippines, the combination of form, function, Filipino hospitality and a host's overriding urge to please may well help push the BMW 7 Series' case for comfort in its favor.

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Carmaker eyes LPG to power upcoming models

THIS Legacy Double Cab that runs on both gasoline and LPG may cost a little more than the regular variant but savings would come as LPG costs much less than gasoline.

By Charles E. Buban

AIR quality in many of the country's urban centers remain threatened despite the numerous interventions implemented and enforced by the government and various sectors.

While burning and industrial activities such as manufacturing and electricity generation are occasionally blamed, the fumes from vehicle exhausts are often cited as the major contributor of pollutants in these areas.

These pollutants, including carbon monoxide, lead, particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide, have been found to cause many health problems such as asthma, lung cancer and heart disease.

Compelled

"As vehicle manufacturer, we are compelled to do something to alleviate the situation, one way is by making sure that what comes out of our plant are products that are reliable, fuel-efficient and meet, if not exceed, emission standards," assures Norberto Quisumbing Jr., founder and chair of Norkis Group, which manufactures small displacement vehicles like Multicab and Legacy as well as Yamaha brand of motorcycles.

But for Quisumbing, his company's efforts should not stop from exploring other avenues that may be beneficial to the industry.

In its own bid to clean up the country's air, Quisumbing reports that Norkis is now testing a number of Legacy vehicles that operate on both gasoline and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

Important alternative

"LPG is becoming an important alternative fuel for vehicles, thanks to its economical (now priced around P21) and environmental advantages," says Quisumbing.

LPG refers to a commercial gas mixture used as alternative fuel, which is mainly composed of butane and propane.

Says Quisumbing: "More than its more affordable price, there are more important advantages to running vehicles on LPG. Numerous studies abroad have found this alternative fuel to be 120 to 180 percent better than gasoline and 2,000 percent better than diesel when it comes to nitrogen oxide emissions."

This means, one diesel vehicle emits the same nitrogen oxides as over 20 LPG vehicles. Another is that on average particle emissions from diesel vehicles are 99 percent higher than LPG.

Dual mode

One more advantage is that the converted Legacy vehicles run on dual mode.

"The driver only has to push a button on the dashboard so that using LPG or gasoline becomes an optional choice for the consumer," says Victor Ubaña, Legacy product managing head.

He adds that since LPG provides less power than gasoline, using LPG is more suited on driving on flat roads, then switch to gasoline when driving condition requires the vehicle to exert more power.

Porta Coeli Industrial Inc. (Legacy manufacturer) chief mechanic Richard Molinar adds that the Legacy that runs on both gasoline and LPG should gain acceptance once marketed.

"The conversion may cost an additional P25,000 more than the regular price of a Legacy (price starts at P187,000) but the savings on fuel cost is enormous based on our initial computations (20 to 30 percent)," reports Molinar.

He says Norkis is now testing the said vehicles here in Metro Manila since the only available station that retails LPG is the Petron station on C5 road.

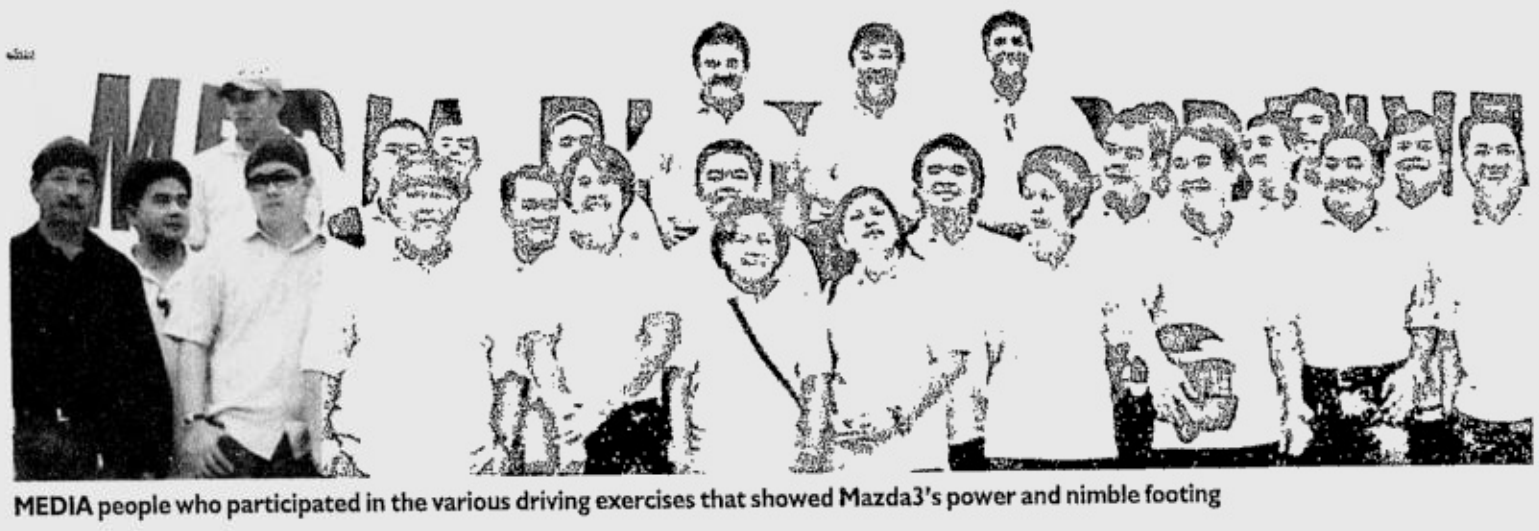
Over 60 years

Although the use of LPG in transportation is just gaining a foothold here in the country, this alternative fuel has been used elsewhere to provide energy for transportation for over 60 years.

LPG is now widely used as a vehicle fuel in the United States, Canada, the Netherlands, Japan and elsewhere. In Japan alone, 94 percent of the total number of taxis use LPG as fuel.

Italy and the Netherlands have the largest number of private vehicles that run on LPG. Incidentally, both countries also have the most developed automotive LPG service station network, owning 55 percent of the total number of LPG retailing sites in Europe.

"If we could just establish even just a fraction of this network here, such a development will trigger us manufacturers to build more vehicles that will run on LPG alone or in conjunction with gasoline. With the surging price of gasoline and diesel, not to mention the need to clean up our air, I believe it's about time to support the development of an LPG for automotive industry here," Quisumbing says.



MEDIA people who participated in the various driving exercises that showed Mazda3's power and nimble footing

An amazing day for an amazing car

By Jude Morte
Contributor

IT IS commonplace to celebrate a car company's anniversary, but to celebrate a product's existence is something few can pull off, especially if a company's product has been zoom-zooming in the market for only a year.

The Mazda3's foray into the highly competitive compact-class (C-class) segment in August 2004 broke new ground in the automotive segment, thanks to a rare marriage of European-inspired fully independent suspension, steering, braking and handling and Japanese compact car styling. Designed in Japan from the ground up, the Mazda3 was meant to embody the company's spirit of "zoom-zoom" and fulfill consumers' expectations of value for money in the C-class segment.

Further enhancing the need to acquire the Mazda3 is an abundance of value-added services such as 24-hour emergency roadside assistance (ERA) and premium extended warranty that ensures peace of mind for all Mazda owners who encounter flat tire and engine problems.

The result is an exceeding of expectations. But don't take this writer's word bit by bit; let the folks at Mazda tell you all about the significant sales gains of the car. "In fact, as of July 2005, we are glad to report that one out of every five cars in the country is a Mazda3 and three out of four cars in the two-liter C-class segment is a Mazda3," said Mazda managing director Dave Macasadia.

Mazda Philippines recently celebrated the Mazda3's first year with a media track day at the Batangas Racing Circuit (BRC) to show why the Mazda3 is a force to be reckoned with in the C-class segment.

Zoom-zooming on the road

The trip to the BRC requires passing through the South Luzon Expressway (Slex) and Batangas' Star Tollway. Using a 1.6-liter "V" variant as the ride toward BRC, it was at the two highways where the Mazda3 showed every bit of its 103 horsepower and 107 foot pounds torque. Zoom-zooming through every opportunity of open road at 120+ kph, the trip netted a top speed of 170 kph. Helping the Mazda3 achieve the said top speed is the aerodynamic design of its "C1 Medium" platform (shared with the current model Ford Focus Ghia and Volvo S40), which reduces drag. On the said trip, going at speeds of 100+ kph, little road noise can be felt at the a- and b-pillars.

The Mazda3's suspension was taut but not floaty on the Slex and the Star Tollway and little noise, vibration and harshness (NVH) was experienced at the Mazda3's front, but there was slightly moderate NVH at the rear.

The Mazda3's brakes felt incredibly good, even when slowing down from triple digit speeds. The car's standard antilock braking system (with electronic brakeforce distribution and brake assist), along with its front-mounted ventilated disc brakes and rear-mounted solid rear disc brakes made stopping as enjoyable as accelerating, but with very minimal fade.

On the track

Upon reaching the BRC, mediamen and Mazda personnel alike were treated to various driving exercises that showed the Mazda3's power and nimble footing. Supervised by Tuason Racing School (TRS) president Jean-Pierre "JP" Tuason, the first two exercises consisted of maneuvers designed to show the Mazda3's handling and braking. The handling exercise featured a slalom weave at 40-50 kph and a two-run braking exercise that showed the compact car's stopping ability from 60 kph and 80 kph.

Mazda3 practically begs the driver to take a scenic route to one's intended destination, thanks to styling themes reminiscent of coupés and 2+2 sports cars, five-spoke alloy wheels and a faux concept car interior. It is this design that has prompted the Car Of The Year (Coty) Awards Group to bestow on it the "Best Overall Design" award.

A distinctly European character can be seen in the design of the quarter panel glass, the dashboard, the seats and the dashboard gauge cluster arrangement and layout. The quarter panel glass design is reminiscent of the Volvo S40, while the dashboard reminds you of the E46 BMW 3-Series, but with far more plastic trim.

Participants took on the third exercise, which consisted of following a TRS-instructor driven pace car throughout the BRC short course for two laps. One run was to be executed with the 1.6-liter and the other was to be done with the two-liter R-spec version.

Having drawn the two-liter R variant as the first assignment, it is easy to get away with late braking maneuvers, especially at Turn One (Turn 1), the R-bend (so-called because of its resemblance to the letter "R") and the last hairpin before the exit turns. The two-liter's 11+ inch front rotors and 10.7-inch rear rotors, coupled with a standard ABS, made stopping power available on demand.

On the other hand, making participants maintain the said one-car length rule is the two-liter's MZR 141 hp and 135 lb ft of torque, along with a 0-100 kph acceleration time of nine seconds. Helping the car get maximum grip amid the torrents of slippery rain were its 17-inch wheels and 60-65 series tires.

BRC's R-bend is a unique downhill right-hand bend with two apexes that forces you to stop 100 meters away from the turn proper, go downhill and far from the first apex and carry momentum, clip the second apex and floor the gas by the time the car exits the turn.

All participants were required to line up at the short straightaway near the exit turn and drive the Mazda3 1.6-liter through the exit turn, brake and go through a row of pylons without hitting them, weave through a slalom course. Then execute a U-turn by going through two sets of two pylons beside each other in a wide gap (located on opposite sides of the main straightaway), end up at the apex of the exit turn and execute a close-quarter parallel parking maneuver.

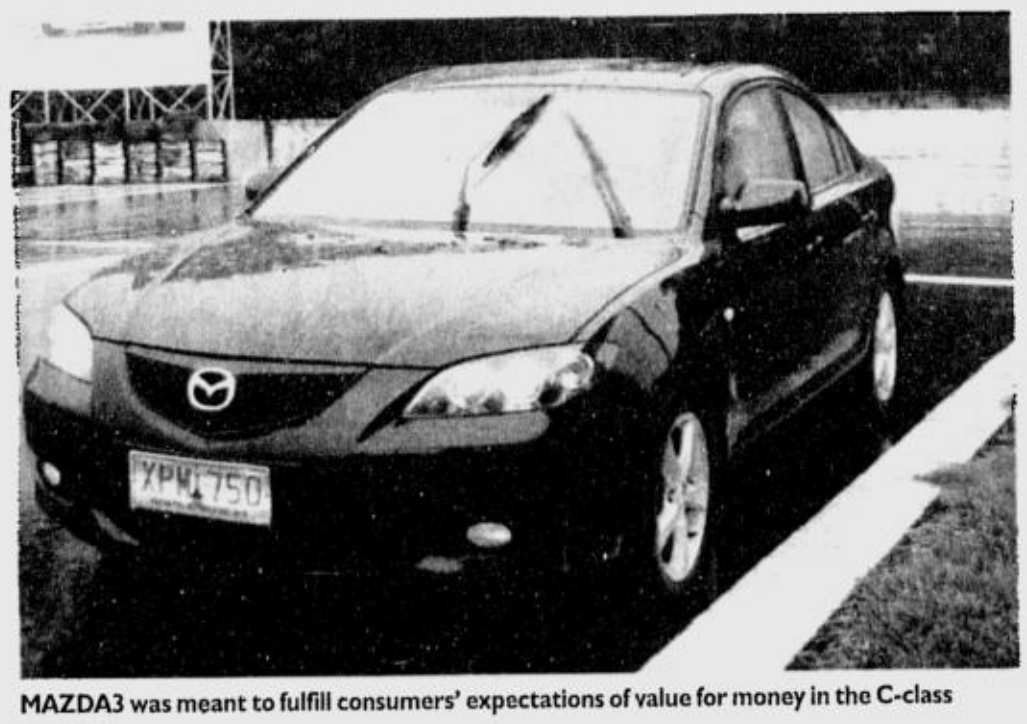
The parallel parking maneuver consisted of two sets of pylons (with four sets of pylons per set), with one pylon set placed in a narrow gap before the other set to give the appearance of a parking space, one in which shoehorning the Mazda3 is a must. As a result participants ended up hitting one or two cones during the parallel parking maneuver on both ends of the parking space, disrupting rhythm and tested composure to the limit.

Taking top honors in the event was Manila Bulletin editor Anjo Perez, with a one-minute, 4.28-second run. Second was Top Gear Philippines' Chuck Kim with a one-minute, 11.37-second run, while Manila Standard's Dino Directo took third place with a one-minute, 15.63-second run.

Toward C-class domination

Whether in Metro Manila or out of town, the Mazda3 has the potential to become the king of the track or the king of the stares in the parking lot. Much like the Jordan brand of Nike shoes, the Mazda3 may well be that rare product with a huge cult following.

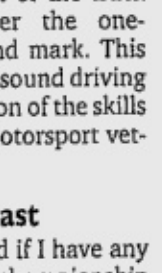
A year (and what happened in between) after its launch may probably have put the Mazda3 as the most powerful evangelist of the teachings of Mazda, the gospel that goes "zoom-zoom."



MAZDA3 was meant to fulfill consumers' expectations of value for money in the C-class segment.

The new challenge

MY DRIFT



Andre Palma

EARLIER this year, there was a buzz among the motoring press that the Honda Media Challenge was going to make a comeback. You can imagine the general excitement, as in the past, this series allowed many members of the media to take their first steps in competitive driving.

I too cut my teeth at this event in 2001 and owe so much to the training, friends and experience that I took home from that year" challenge. Smitten by the environment and culture of motorsport, many of the graduates have gone on to race in earnest, aided in no small part by the skills imparted at the Media Challenge.

There were questions though as to the shape and form that the 2005 season would take. The most intriguing query was that of what platform series sponsor Honda would take to the races. Final confirmation of the details came at the press launch of the 1.5-liter VTEC-powered Jazz. This would be the competition's chosen car with the series focus given a distinct taste of tarmac.

Perfect setting

Carmona Racing Circuit was chosen as the venue that would test the participants and the vehicle. This one-kilometer plus track, built for competitive go-kart racing, offers a perfect setting to exploit the capabilities of the small, nimble and lively 1.5-liter hatch. Peppered with short straights and hairpins, Carmona favors a vehicle with responsive low- to mid-speed acceleration, fairly neutral handling and capable brakes.

One must really walk the circuit to get an appreciation for how deliciously tight the track is, even for such a small car. Launching down the start/finish straight, the Jazz makes it up to second gear before the first corner, an uphill right hander that tightens ever so slightly at the exit.

After passing the apex, it is essential to straighten the car as soon as possible on the leftmost side of the road, as turn two is a late apex right, followed by a very short straight that unfolds into the first tricky corners of the track. Turns three and four are interrelated left's with the later deserving more attention as it will allow one to line up properly for turn five's slight right and the almost immediate tight U-turn right that is turn six.

Good exit

A good exit will give one enough space to line up for the turn seven and eight lefts, taken much like turns three and four, but with the exit being much wider. This will allow a little more throttle application after straightening the wheels and this brings the driver quickly to turn nine, actually more of a fast curve than a corner.

Turn ten is another tight right that must be tackled with caution. Approach will definitely be at speed, somewhere in high second or, even possibly, in the low third gear range. Judicious use of the brakes is needed as the slow entry speed must be matched with an exit that will have the car slightly wider than textbook.

Turn eleven is a tight chicane, that if prepared for properly, will line the car up for slight bumps on both the apex and exit. The driver then stomps the life out of the accelerator for a flying finish.

Decent lap times, given the length and width of the track should be under the one-minute, 20-second mark. This is fundamentally sound driving and the application of the skills clinic given by motorsport veterans.

Fearless forecast

I've been asked if I have any favorites for the championship and, breaking with the Philippine press' penchant for worrying about being wrong at the end, I will stick my neck out and name names. The struggle for the individual driver's championship will be primarily between C! Magazine's James Deakin and Bulletin photo man Anjo Perez. These men, despite having very different driving styles, they are fast in their own right.

Dark horses for the individual plum are first-timers Mike Black of Top Gear Philippines and C! Magazine's Iñigo Roces. The team championship is most likely going to be a three-way affair among C! Magazine (lead by the Deakin/Roces combination), the Bulletin (Perez plus Challenge veteran Aris Ilagan) and the Star (comprised mostly of veterans).

How then is all of this relevant to the reader? It would seem that the event is just another elaborate ploy to spoil the motoring media and play to their narcissism. This is not the case.

By giving participants practical driving skills and competition experience, the Honda Media Challenge strives to make the responsible motoring media more competent in their field of work—that of cars and driving. The better the press become at understanding the fundamentals of their focused field, the better they can be at their creative craft. In the end, the awards and trophies will go to some of the participants, but the true winner is the motoring public.

Those bike lanes; inspiring Isuzu

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

THE IDEA of putting up bike lanes in the metropolis is long overdue. Long before the cell phone, we should have had them already. Why we don't is, yes you guessed it right: Most of our politicians rarely think of the welfare of the people.

I hope this renewed interest in reviving the establishment of bike lanes is pursued vigorously, and with results as soon as possible.

Hopefully, too, alongside the bike lanes are footpaths. Not everybody can ride a bike for one reason or another so that the footpaths are for the nonbikers.

More than Bayani Fernando and the MMDA, GMA could be the key to its success.

* * *

How about the sidewalks, if not the sidewalk vendors?

Save for Makati's main thoroughfares like Ayala and Buendia, we could hardly see a decent sidewalk in the Big City.

Thus, before we could really seriously put up the bike lanes and footpaths, we need to first properly identify, if not recapture, the sidewalks of the city.

As it is, most of our sidewalks seem to have been lost to poachers, squatters and sidewalk vendors.

* * *

In its eighth anniversary this year, Isuzu went to Atimonan, Quezon, to plant hundreds of narra seedlings.

It was in keeping with Isuzu's commitment to be forever environment-friendly.

In 2002, Isuzu staged a puppet show to the children of Biñan and Sta. Rosa, Laguna, with environmental awareness as its main theme.

In 2003, Isuzu released 10,000 tilapia fingerlings at Laguna de Bay in partnership with the Laguna Lake Development Authority.

Aside from the tilapia fingerlings, Isuzu also donated a garbage trap facility to help keep a vital river flowing and free of garbage in barangays Macabling and Tagapo in Sta. Rosa.

Last year, Isuzu built a two-classroom building and donated it to the Biñan National High School.

This year, Isuzu went to Sitio Sapinit-Sta. Catalina, Barangay Silangang Malikboy, Atimonan, Quezon, for its reforestation project.

Isuzu chose Quezon because some towns there were declared under a state of calamity last year.

"Establishing a forest reserve perfectly complements Isuzu's main global thrust this year to institute what we call the SEE (Safety, Economy, Environment-friendliness) technology which encompasses all Isuzu endeavors from product development, customer relations and corporate responsibility," said IPC president Yoshifumi Komura.

Isuzu's partners in the ISUlong ang Kalikasan! project were Antonio Principe, regional executive director of DENR, and officials from the province led by Vice Gov. Jay-Jay Suarez and Diony Dapla, director of Quezon's Protected Area Management Board (PAMB).

IPC has also donated 5,000 narra seedlings more to Infanta and Real—the center of the calamity area,

Said Komura: "We will ensure this project will last longer than our lifetimes. Isuzu's commitment to the environment goes well beyond just building fuel-efficient and environment-friendly vehicles. We will be active in helping communities like Sitio Sapinit to protect and sustain the environment."

What a project! Here's a glass to Isuzu.

* * *

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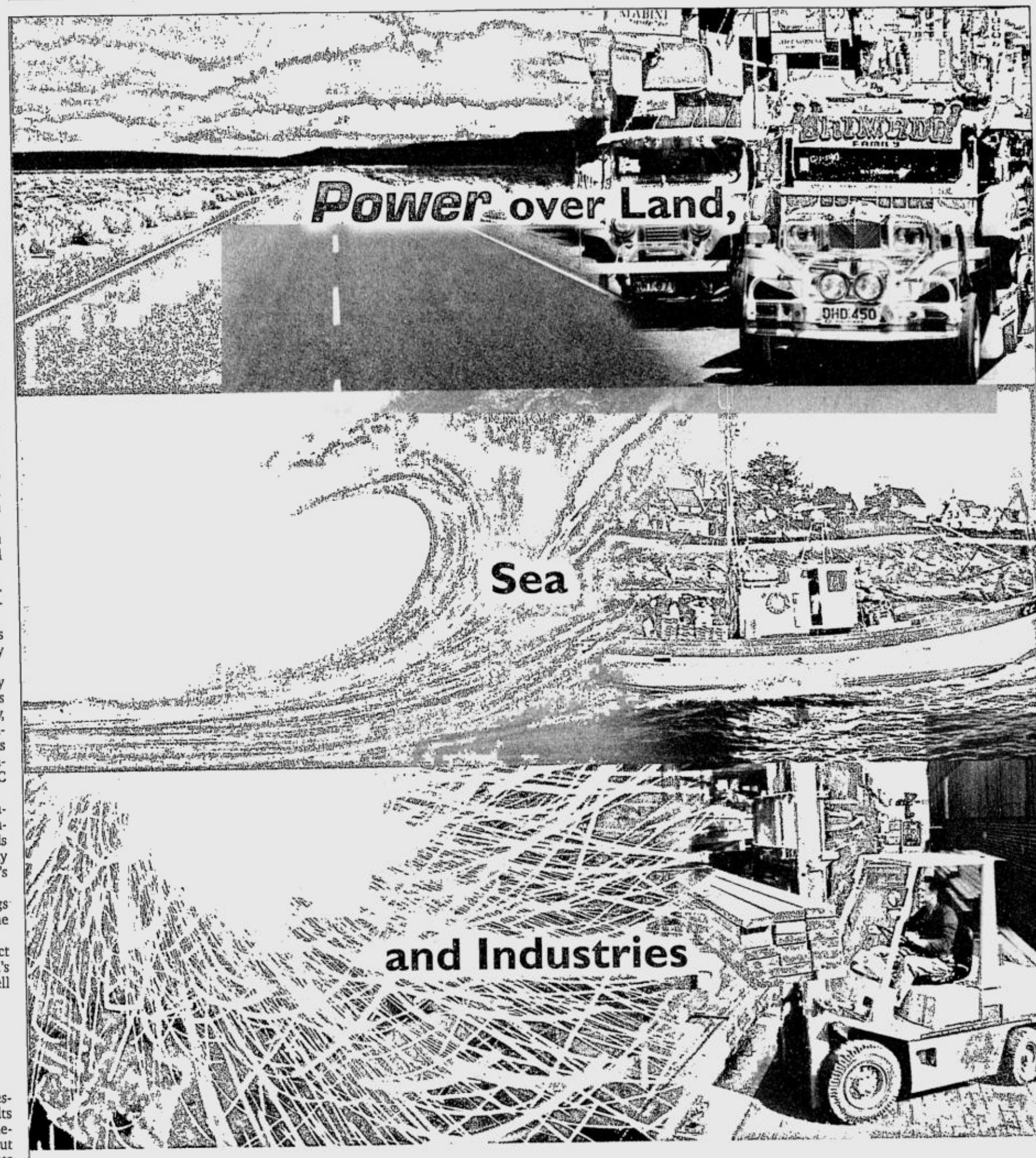
Located at Karport, Fort Building, 32nd Street, Global City, Taguig, Swissol is what you've been looking all these years in terms of delicate car detailing, both interior and exterior.

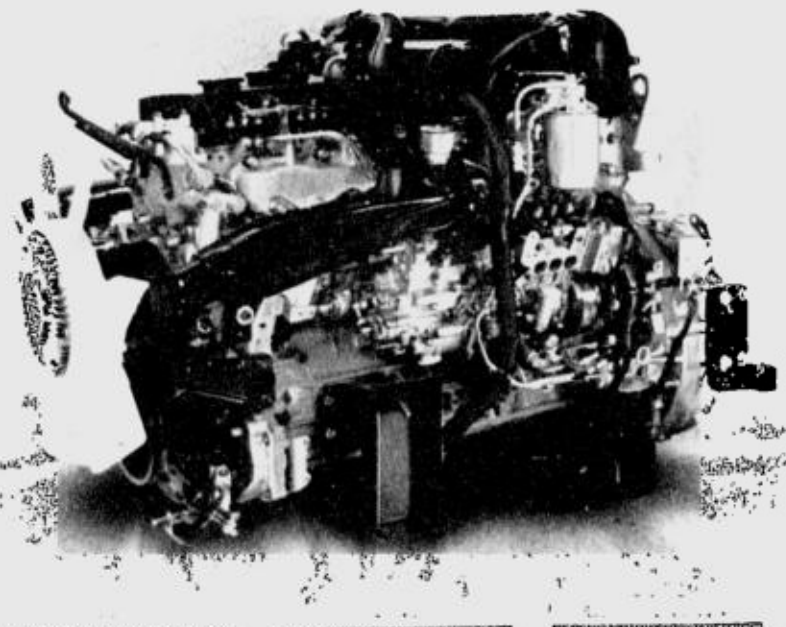
My former INQUIRER colleague, Rea Gomez, will be more than willing to assist you when you come visiting. Call Rea at 0920-9131071 for an appointment.

* * *

QUOTE ME: Honk that horn only when necessary. It will do your heart good, if not your blood pressure.



Across a whole nation, people depend on the power, reliability and technology brought by one name - ISUZU, the country's diesel engine authority. Powering industries that drive this nation forward, ISUZU launches the ISUZU Powertrain. A complete line of specialized diesel engines for various Automotive, Marine and Industrial applications. Powertrains that surpass expectations you can only expect from the undisputed leader in diesel engine technology.



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Suzuki's...

From page B2-4

the second row of seats is especially impressive, although seating three well-fed adults shoulder-to-shoulder there would be somewhat of a tight fit. The presence of fold-out center armrests for the second and third seats suggests that the ideal occupant load is six people, not eight.

When the third-row seats are stowed, rear cargo room increases to 714 liters. The front- and second-row seats can be fully folded down backward to provide bed-like accommodations. For rear seat passengers, there is a rear air-conditioning system with individual controls conveniently positioned overhead. The GLX model is equipped with a 2-DIN tuner/cassette/in-dash CD audio system and six speakers while the GL has a 1-DIN audio system with four speakers.

TECT-safe

With its entry-level price, no one is surprised that the APV has no airbag or four-wheel disc brakes with ABS and EBD. The safety features are Suzuki's TECT (Total Effective Control Technology)-assembled body that directs collision impact away from the occupants, 3-point ELR seatbelts, side-impact beams on all four doors and a third brake lamp. In addition, the GLX has keyless entry and front fog lamps.

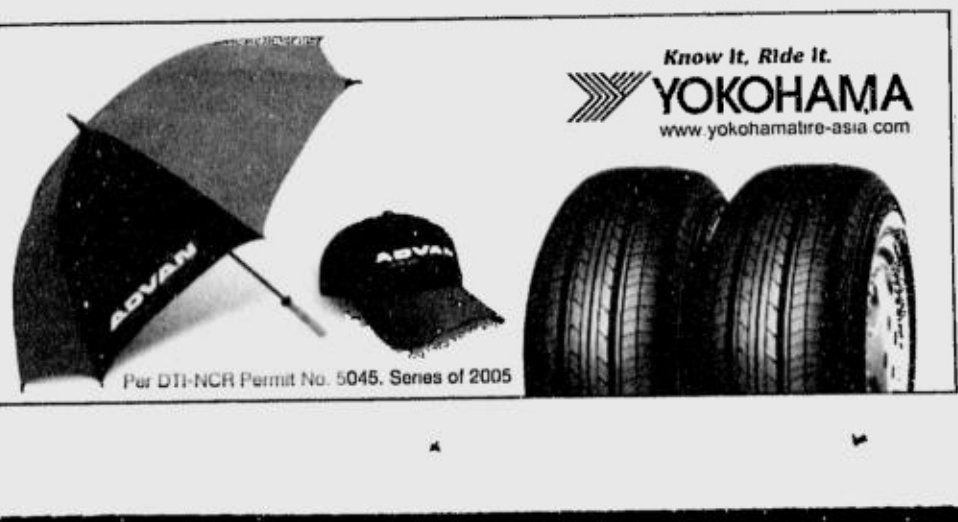
Bottom line, Suzuki displayed perfect timing in bringing over the APV. It is a step forward for Suzuki to fulfill its mission of providing sensible, durable "value-packed" products that promote mobile lifestyles and meet customers' needs.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Man can count the seeds in an apple, but only God can count the apples in a seed.

* * *

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
MOTORING
31, 2005

Suzuki's sensible yet sporty APV

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

DOES Suzuki Motor Corp. have a crystal ball that sees into the future? I ask this question because last May, months before the price of crude oil soared to a record-breaking US$71 per barrel, Suzuki Philippines Inc. launched a 1.6-liter, eight-seater (including driver) compact minivan called the APV or all-purpose vehicle.

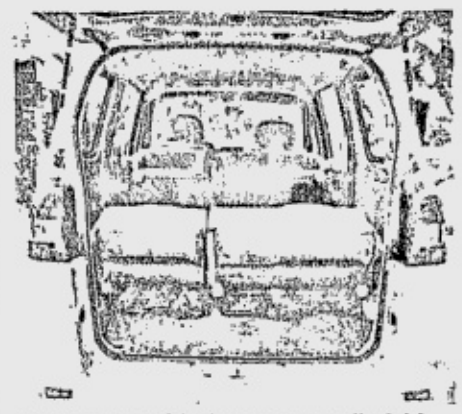
A fuel-thrifty minivan that seats eight and costs only P632,000 (for the manual transmission GL model) or P762,000 (for the automatic GLX) is precisely what the mobile Filipino family needs in these times of weekly fuel price increases. Anyway, for many families, buying a big, gas-guzzling minivan or SUV is out of the question. The APV, the first and only compact minivan in the market, makes much more sense.

Not that the APV is sensible to the point of boredom. The first time you see it, the APV may appear plain, slab-sided and boxy but the more you look at it, the more you discern the simple trendiness of its design a la Honda Element and Toyota Scion. Over the years, Suzuki Motor has earned a worldwide reputation as the foremost manufacturer of small but sporty cars and the nimble APV is a prime example.

Sporty

That sporty perception is confirmed when you climb in and take the wheel. The APV's high ground clearance (170 mm) not only gives the driver a commanding view of the road the way an SUV does, it also allows the vehicle to ford flash floods easily since the air intake is located at an elevated location. The engine, by the way, is tucked under the driver's seat but somehow, the heat generated by the machine does not seep up through the seat cushion.

The APV's gasoline engine (1.6-liter, SOHC 16-valve, in-line four with multipoint injection and distributor-less ignition system) packs 127 Nm @ 4,500 rpm max torque, giving the compact minivan adequate pulling power to transport eight passengers and their belongings. The APV GLX I test drove for a week had a silky smooth 4-speed automatic transmission with overdrive, but I surmised that if I had the 5-speed manual transmission GL model, the performance would have been peppier and it would have been more fun to drive.



THE 2ND and 3rd row seats split-fold and tumble forward.

The ride quality of the APV is rather firm and truck-like, what with MacPherson struts in front and a rigid axle with leaf springs at the rear. But this layout guarantees a suspension that is strong enough to carry eight passengers and their cargo over long distances and even on secondary roads. I felt like I was driving a sporty mini-truck and I enjoyed it immensely. The APV's 4.9-meter turning radius enhances the feeling of agility and translates into parking maneuverability.

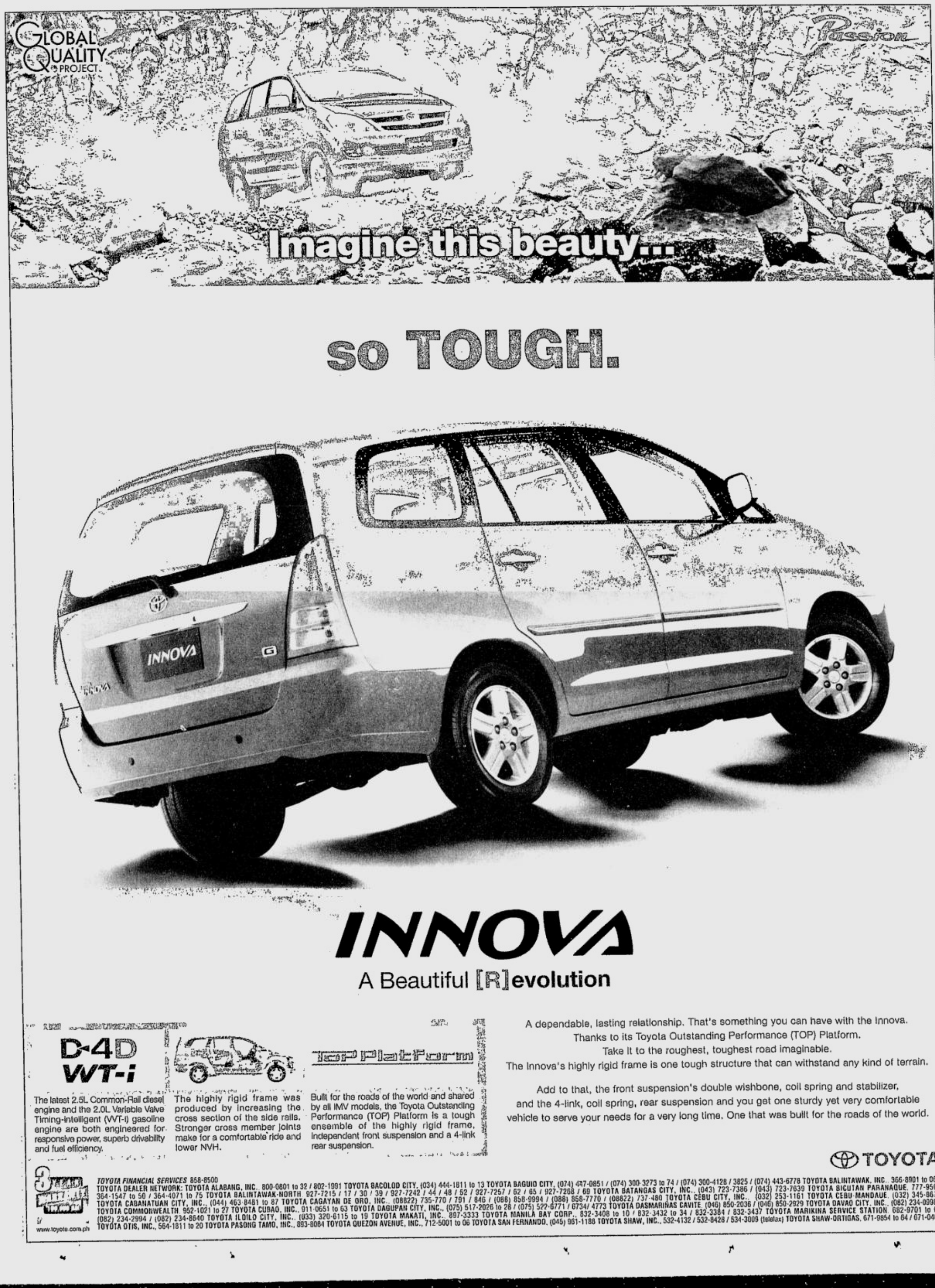
THE FUEL-THRIFTY, trendy Suzuki APV

PHOTOS BY AIDA SEVILLA-MENDOZA

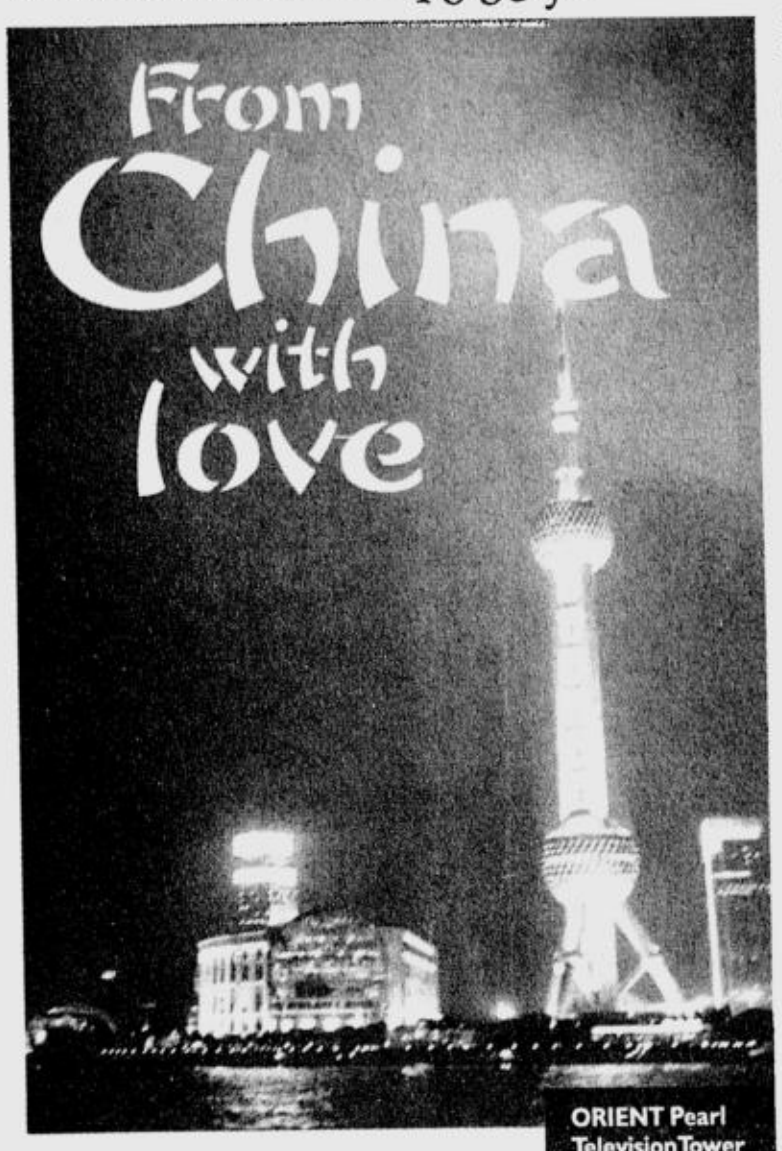
Spacious

For a vehicle of this size—4,166 mm long, 1,655 mm wide, 1,855 mm high—the APV is surprisingly spacious inside. The driver's seat and front seat, being individual chairs with a center armrest, are big enough and comfy. The second and third row of seats are the split-fold and tumble type. Leg room in

SUZUKI'S/ B2-3



From China with love



ORIENT Pearl Television Tower in Shanghai

A NIGHTTIME view of Shanghai

Philippine-Chinese ties were further strengthened with a historic visit by 114 Filipinos to the Chinese mainland

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Von Tan Gana

FILIPINOS and Chinese have always been in close contact since pre-colonial times. Thirty years of Sino-Filipino diplomatic relations cemented this bridge considerably, and give only a glimpse of what future ties can bring.

In July, 114 young Filipino delegates were sent to China on the first Philippine-China Youth Ambassadors Program. This exchange program was an output of President Hu Jintao's state visit to the Philippines in April. It was co-organized by the All-China Youth Federation on the Chinese side, and by the National Youth Commission (NYC) and Thames International Business School on the Philippine side.

The NYC and Thames only had three weeks to organize the delegation. The youth ambassadors from the Philippines represented four sectors: government, young entrepreneurs, young professionals and students.

Aside from strengthening diplomatic ties, the program also represented a partnership between the Philippine government and the private sector. Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV, chair of the NYC, headed the delegation, while Vivienne Tan, president of Thames, was the program partner from the private sector.

In nine days, the Filipino delegates were treated to a comprehensive taste of China by visiting three cities: Hangzhou, Beijing and Shanghai.

Cultural exchange

These ambassadors of goodwill also experienced China literally, in a cultural exchange that featured Chinese cooking, tai chi boxing, Chinese calligraphy and painting, papercut and knot weaving and a night at the Peking opera.

Tours of historic Chinese sites were also a main feature. Delegates visited attractions such as the Leifeng Pagoda, the West Lake and the Monastery of Soul's Retreat in Hangzhou; the Great Hall of the People, the Forbidden City and the Great Wall in Beijing; and the Eastern Pearl Television Tower in Shanghai.

A visit to the Hangmin Village opened the Filipinos' eyes to the Chinese idea of community. A trip to Wanxiang Corporation, where the people's representative was given a higher position in the hierarchy than all the CEOs, was also a learning experience.

Lush banquets punctuated the evenings' itinerary, accompanied by cultural performances from both the Filipinos and the Chinese. Shopping was also an experience, as haggling with Chinese businessmen required considerable skill and willpower.

The program ended with the Filipino delegates and their Chinese hosts on an evening cruise on Huangpu River in Shanghai.

Group discussions

Clearly, much insight and learning were absorbed during the trip. In group discussions at the end of the program, many of

FROM/ C2

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Susan Reyes

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From China with love

From page C1

the delegates were impressed at the richness of Chinese culture and the discipline and warmth of the people. (See related articles.)

Mary-Anne "Honey" Tan, commissioner for the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women said, "Some people succeed because they are destined to, but most people succeed because they are determined, just like the Chinese government. It goes without saying that the Philippine government is also determined to succeed. but it is our spirit of 'individualism' that holds us back. I hope what we have learned in China will not only turn into knowledge but action."

Jayjay Viray, general manager of JobsDB.com says, "If there is something I learned from that trip, I learned it in Hangmin. That community is so rich and successful because the head had a vision to make everyone in that community rich. Everyone worked towards that vision. One goal, one mind, one spirit."

For the students, a big part of the learning came from the way China conducted business. Aaron dela Cruz, a Thames senior, said, "The historical and economic aspects of China are the main things that brought me joy in this trip. Their economic growth is an inspiration as well as an opportunity for me to take advantage of in the near future."

Sr. Gertrude Borres of Assumption College remarked, "It was refreshing to see the humanity behind the bureaucracy."

Significant event

The program also highlighted a significant event: the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Further Development of Sino-Filipino Youth Exchange between the ACYF and the NYC.

In this agreement signed by Zhou Qiang, first secretary of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League of China and honorary president of the ACYF, and Bam Aquino of the NYC, the two parties agreed to carry out and support youth exchange and cooperation by strengthening ties in various fields, including business, culture, education, training, human resources development..

Jiang Guangping, deputy secretary-general of the All-China Youth Federation, expressed support for these exchange programs despite the difficulty of obtaining financial resources. He believes in the Chinese youth, he said, and that entrepreneurship is "a powerful way to mobilize young people and solve unemployment."

"We need efforts to make these programs happen," he added. Funding on the part of the Chinese group came from the government and private sources.

Ma Chun Lei, chairman of the Shanghai Youth Federation, stressed the importance of the exchange program. "Understanding comes from the media, [but it is] an indirect way. So it is important to visit each other and to promote mutual understanding."

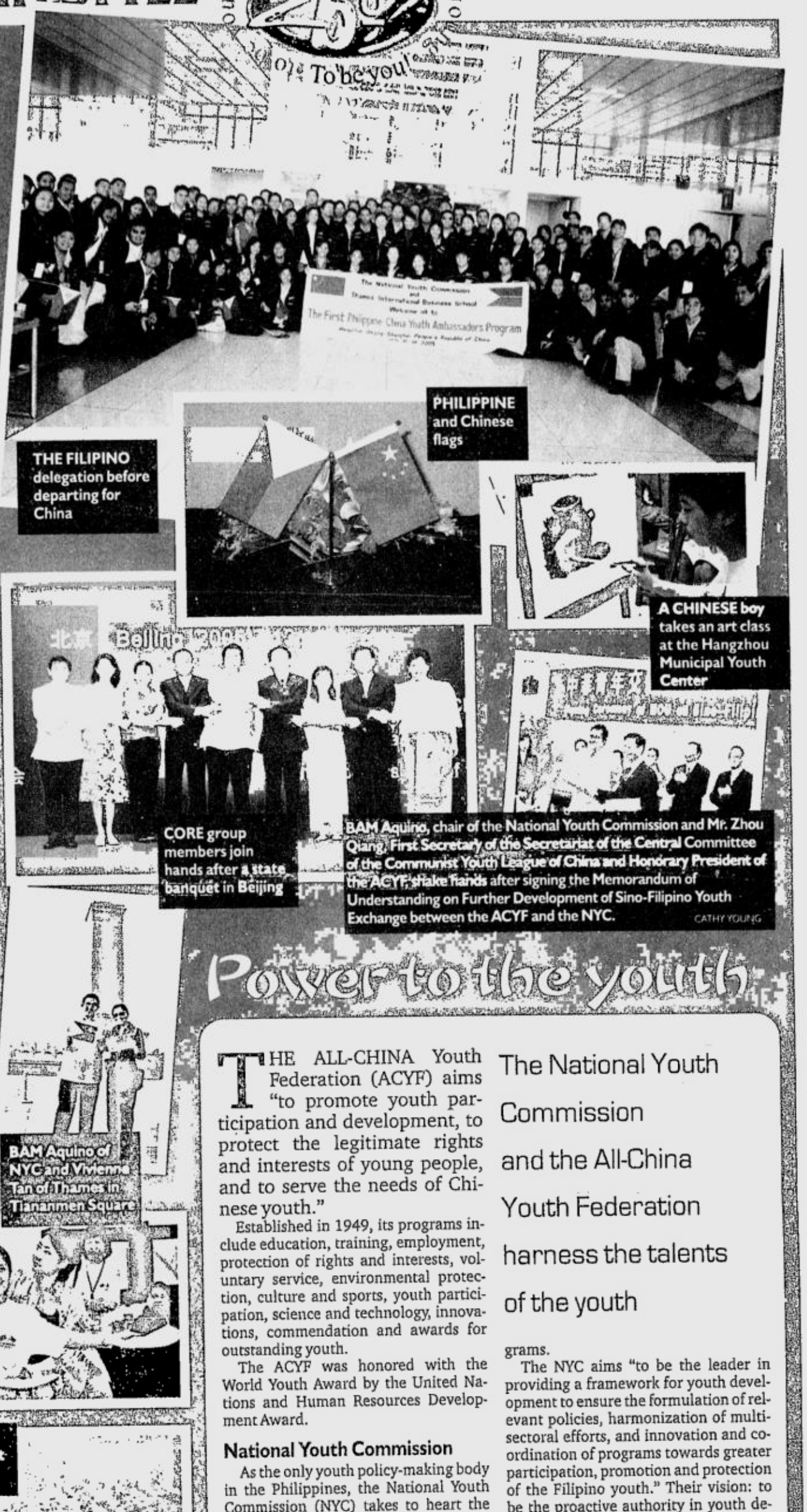
His first impression of Filipinos? They are "very warmhearted, hospitable and open-minded." He expressed hope that more Filipinos will visit China.

Inspiring

It was a truly inspiring trip for the Filipino delegates, most of whom went to China for the first time. New friendships between the Chinese and the Filipinos were created, much information about each country's culture was exchanged, and misconceptions about China were corrected.

The two countries switch roles this November, with the Philippines hosting a 100-member delegation from China. Well, they can expect to be welcomed with the same warmth and hospitality.

E-mail the author at cathy_young1@yahoo.com



THE FILIPINO delegation before departing for China

PHILIPPINE and Chinese flags

A CHINESE boy takes an art class at the Hangzhou Municipal Youth Center

CORE group members join hands after a state banquet in Beijing

BAM Aquino, chair of the National Youth Commission and Mr. Zhou Qiang, First Secretary of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League of China and Honorary President of the ACYF, shake hands after signing the Memorandum of Understanding on Further Development of Sino-Filipino Youth Exchange between the ACYF and the NYC. CATHY YOUNG

BAM Aquino of NYC and Vivienne Tan of Thames in Tiananmen Square

FILIPINO delegates get a taste of Peking Opera...

TRUDGING through the Great Wall of China

VIEW from the top: Beijing Planning Exhibition Hall

Power to the youth

THE ALL-CHINA Youth Federation (ACYF) aims "to promote youth participation and development, to protect the legitimate rights and interests of young people, and to serve the needs of Chinese youth."

Established in 1949, its programs include education, training, employment, protection of rights and interests, voluntary service, environmental protection, culture and sports, youth participation, science and technology, innovations, commendation and awards for outstanding youth.

The ACYF was honored with the World Youth Award by the United Nations and Human Resources Development Award.

National Youth Commission

As the only youth policy-making body in the Philippines, the National Youth Commission (NYC) takes to heart the formation and implementation of policies for the development of the Filipino youth. Established in 1995, the NYC also provides opportunities for young people to be pro-active in nation-building through special projects and programs.

The National Youth Commission and the All-China Youth Federation harness the talents of the youth

The NYC aims "to be the leader in providing a framework for youth development to ensure the formulation of relevant policies, harmonization of multisectoral efforts, and innovation and coordination of programs towards greater participation, promotion and protection of the Filipino youth." Their vision: to be the proactive authority in youth development.

Visit the NYC website at www.youth.net.ph, or their main office at the 4/F Bookman Building, 373 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, telefax 7812323. *Catherine Young*

Of cheongsams and barong Tagalogs

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

Filipino and Chinese culture are worlds apart yet strikingly similar in some ways

IT'S no secret that I'm biracial. My mother is Filipina; my father, half-Chinese.

The deceptively American flavor of my last name is simply another way to spell out, in Roman alphabet, my *angkong*'s name. The fact that there is a Cathy Yang in media is not lost on me; we are not related. I think.

But like anyone who is a product of two racial bloodlines, I feel loyal to both cultures.

Though strikingly different in many ways, Filipinos and Chinese have similar goals. Such common ground was evident in the recent Philippine-Chinese Youth Ambassadors Program hosted by the All-China Youth Federation (ACYF).

Part of the program was visiting China's famous tourist sites, most of which are hundreds of years old. Such sites show how proud the Chinese are of their history.

It is remarkable to see how, despite the impact of globalization, "they still preserve their own," says Marlon Agoy-agoy, a part-time professor at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines.

"They have a strong sense of who they are and [take] pride in their heritage," says Cholo Mallillin, Student Affairs head of Thames International Business School.

Value for education

One of the things that have made us truly respect the Chinese is their value for education. In Hangzhou, for instance, all kinds of lessons—from ballet to music to art—were available in the city's Municipal Youth and Children Center. The most amazing thing was seeing kids, as young as five, attending Introduction to Robotics.

On the other hand, Zhejiang University takes in the best students from different parts of the country. It also has the biggest dining hall in Asia.

Discipline

Perhaps the most striking thing that we delegates admire in the Chinese is discipline. Being late, for example, was inexcusable.

Indeed, discipline has made China prosperous and that's the best lesson we Filipinos can learn from them. "The power of a nation is in its people. A deeply ingrained system is one of the greatest reasons why they are successful," says James Dayo, a Thames student.

Araceli "Cel" Aves, a commissioner of the National Youth Commission, remarked how the Chinese work on the premise that "everybody has a role." A leader should be a mother to everyone and constantly join her troops.

Planning

Because of their keen sense of discipline, strategic planning becomes feasible. In Beijing and Shanghai, we saw models of huge exhibition halls, including those for the 2008 Olympic Games. It was truly a glimpse into their future.

"The government is empowering the people, that's why they're successful," says Lesley Aquino, a business unit manager of Seimens, Inc. Seeing their progress made the delegates feel hopeful about the Philippines. "[The Chinese] have their act together, and we can too," says Mark Ruiz of Unilever.

Wise political policies

When asked how China was able to attain so much development in recent times, Ma Chun Lei, chair of the Shanghai Youth Federation, said his country's success can be attributed to wise government policies and involvement of young people. "Seek development with one heart and one mind," he says.

Heart

The greatest thing, however, was the warmth and hospitality displayed by our Chinese friends. Thames president Vivienne Tan put it very well: "The most important new discovery about China is that it is a country that has so much heart. Through the hospitality shown by the ACYF and its affiliate organizations, the Philippine delegation felt how warm, friendly, and loving the Chinese people are."

Indeed, our hosts from the ACYF became good friends.

One of them, George, can even speak Tagalog.

Bayanihan spirit

The Chinese saw a lot of heart in Filipinos, too.

Bam Aquino, chair of the National Youth Commission (NYC), was pleased with the *bayanihan* spirit Pinoys showed when one person's luggage was left in Beijing by mistake. The other delegates gave him clothes that he could use until the next day.

The Chinese were also taken aback by our love for music. At banquets where delegates were required to do cultural presentations, it wasn't difficult to gather Filipinos who were willing to sing impromptu.

Warmest Asians

Undeniably, Filipinos are the warmest and most lighthearted Asians. Imagine 114 delegates posing for pictures in every Chinese spot, whether at the breathtaking Forbidden City or a mundane place as the airport. We are so demonstrative that we often give other people a hug as a way of greeting them.

Despite the stress and hectic schedules, it was an enriching experience. Until now, the friendship between the Filipino and Chinese delegates continue. We are bound not just by friendship and goodwill but also by the belief that there is hope for our country.

When the 100 delegates from China arrive in the Philippines in November, we hope to show them the same kind of hospitality they gave us. It will be another happy mix of "Ni Hao!" and "Mabuhay! "

E-mail the author at cathy_young1@yahoo.com

THE YAPARAZZI dance? Check it out this Saturday, 8 p.m. on ABC 5, only at "Club_TV."

Gonna make that change

Tim Yap

How Michael Jackson affected my life—beyond the gross makeup and the cosmetic re-engineering

EARLY last week, I had an encounter with a Michael Jackson song, a long-forgotten ditty titled "Tabloid Junkie," from Jacko's "History" album. It's about how everybody wants to believe everything one sees and hears, even if it's not the truth. Somehow the words have also been echoing in my head—in a surreal way.

Just because you read it in a magazine
Or see it on the TV screen
Don't make it factual
See, but everybody wants to believe all about it
She's blonde and she's bisexual

That refrain wasn't referring to me (or to Jude Law's naked paparazzi pix), but okay, I confess—I have been rehearsing to the tune of this song for a dance number. Yup, you heard it right, a true blue (or shall I say, blonde) dance number, choreographed, rehearsed, complete with props and flying chairs, kicks, background dancers, et al—you get the picture? Catch it this Saturday, 8 p.m. on ABC-5's "Club_TV." (Sorry, shameless plug right there!)

Lately, my life's taken a new dance twist with "Club_TV." Think of it as a pre-party of sorts where you get to hobnob and dance with your favorite celebrities in a club setting. We have a party princess whose name is **Laura Jean**, guest dudes who co-host with the two of us, such as **KC Montero**, **Juddha Paolo**, and for this week, my good buddy **Borgy Manotoc**. **Gab Valenciano** and **Miggy Eugenio** both come from dance-related genes (Gab is to Gary, while Migs is to Geleen). Add to that the Guam-based dance group, Skip. Each week is a whole new party experience.

After-party

Everything has indeed been a whole new experience. The peak probably was when we got a spoof slot in "Wow Mali!" by the genius **Joey de Leon**. I am truly and deeply flattered.

Fast-forward to a few days later, I found myself writing this column right smack center of an after party.

In between jokes, and a girl playing with zips, my friend asked me to listen carefully to this newly remixed house version of an old anthem. "I'm gonna make a change, for once in my life..." The room became quiet—and then bam! Everyone suddenly joined in the chorus!

I'm starting with the man in the mirror
I'm asking him to change his ways
And no message could have been any clearer
If you wanna make the world a better place
Take a look at yourself and make that change

Sometimes, lyrics have a way of calling out to you. Remember those karaoke sessions that gave you the goosebumps after suddenly realizing the true meaning of the song?

I've been a victim of a selfish kind of love
It's time that I realize that there are some with no home, not a nickel to loan
Could it be really me, pretending that they're not alone?

It's funny how the mix of lyrics plus company plus your state in life makes such a difference. It's like hearing words of advice when you need it the most. Serendipitous, if you wanna call it that.

I walked out at the peak of the party with a smile, knowing that Someone up there was trying to deliver a message.

True enough, when I checked my mail, the inbox was full due to feedback from 2bU!'s young journalists summit. I want to share one with you.

"Greetings of peace and love! I am a public school teacher here in Calasiao, Pangasinan. At present, I am also the reading coordinator and library resource center custodian. I have always clung to the idea that literacy, knowledge and social consciousness are by-products of discriminating reading habits. I try to promote reading interest and awareness to my students but I am having difficulty enticing them to visit the library. I don't blame them. Our library definitely needs a makeover. For one, it has a very slim collection of paperbacks and reference materials.

"I read INQUIRER as often as I can. (I can't afford to buy my own copy regularly—I wait till the school copy has been read by the 'gods.') I read your column and I thought of writing you for assistance. I have e-mailed government and non-government sectors and personnel about our need for more books but my request seemed to have fallen on deaf ears.

"I do hope you can find it in your heart to donate books for us in the province. Or at least send me e-mail addresses of people or agencies who can grant my humble request. I would like to inspire my students to acquire the love for reading, but we need books! Books of great minds and enlightened souls! Am I asking for too much? My colleagues think I am wasting my time writing even the politicians to help us out. Yes! I have actually e-mailed several already. Are my efforts really futile? I don't think so. I told myself, I'll press on till I see our library full of books and students having a great time reading.

"Thank you in anticipation for a favorable response.

"Respectfully yours,
"AGNES P. BACUGAN"

Want to make a change? E-mail Agnes at agnesb712000@yahoo.com and spread the love—of reading books!

E-mail Yaparazzi at supertim@pldtdsl.net

"CLUB_TV" partyphiles KC Montero and Laura Jean. This week, Borgy Manotoc joins the gang.

"CLUB_TV" director Rich Ilustre

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We will be selecting one winner every week for the next two months.

From the eight winners, we will select the grand prize winner of Merrell gift certificates worth P10,000.

If you're male, 18 years old or older, send your entries to contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph. Photos must not be digitally manipulated. Essays shouldn't be longer than 500 words. Don't forget to include your name, age, address, contact numbers, and the shoe size of your favorite girl.

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Call for entries

WHAT do "The Incredibles," "Finding Nemo" and "A Bug's Life" have in common? Other than being highly entertaining and technically superior computer animations, they also showcase the creativity, imagination and artistic talents of Filipino animators.

Now local digital artists and illustrators will get a chance to showcase such creativity and technical skills at Macromedia's Flash Festival 2005, a digital animation competition.

The competition is one of the highlights of Comddap Expo 2005 Oct. 6-9, at Comddap Tent in Fort Global City in Taguig City.

Participants will be using Macromedia Flash Mix Professional 2004 and Studio MX 2004.

Macromedia makes Rich Internet Applications to e-learning solutions allowing enterprises to manage increasingly complex Web applications, analyze results and generate measurable returns on investments.

Winners will receive original Macromedia software products and wireless mouse. Visit flashfestival2005.yehey.com.

Deadline for submission of entries is noon of Sept. 24. Online voting starts on Sept. 26, until noon of Oct. 8. Awarding will be on Oct. 9, 5 p.m.

Flash Festival 2005 is being hosted by Comddap Expo 2005 and sponsored by Macromedia through its exclusive distributor Wordtext Systems, Inc. (WSI). Yehey.com is the festival's official website host.

Comddap Expo 2005 sponsors are Canon Marketing Phils., Epson Phils. Corp., Microsoft Phils., Samsung Electronics, Sony Phils., Toshiba, and Wordtext Systems, Inc. Supporting organizations are Chase Technologies Corp., Directories Phils. Corp., Imatech Corp., Media G8way Corp., PC Buyer's Guide, and Yehey.com.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2005

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2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

YOU wouldn't want to leave Heaven 'N Eggs.

A taste of heaven

Text by Pam Pastor
Photos by Roger Carpio

WE have found heaven on earth.

In this heaven, there are clouds and flowers all around, the placemats are shaped like sunny side-up eggs, the seats are swings, the waiters have wings and five flavors of soda made from an authentic antique soda fountain are overflowing.

This paradise is called Heaven 'N Eggs and they just opened their new Glorietta branch last week.

The original branch in Tomas Morato, which opened last April, already has a strong following, with people patiently lining up to wait for tables. And after just a few days in business, it looks like the Glorietta branch is following its footsteps, with shoppers waiting for seats, eager for the chance to get a taste of paradise.

"We want to offer comfort food. *Sobrang busy kasi ngayon ng mga tao*. We want to give them a place where they can go in and feel re-

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Buttons up!

Young designer is flip-flopping her way to fashion success

Text by Pam Pastor
Photos By Ryan Lim

TWENTY-FOUR-YEAR-OLD Thesa-Naica Mundala, a Multimedia Arts graduate of De La Salle - College of St. Benilde, says it was the 2bU! Fashion Freaks that helped her unleash her entrepreneurial skills. "My real inspiration was your column in INQUIRER. I am always looking forward to read those Fashion Freaks stories. I became interested and thought of making my own fashion business," she said.

She originally wanted to design necklaces last summer when, during her search for different kinds of beads, she came across funky colorful buttons.

Soon, she was designing flip flops with the cute and colorful buttons. She began with seven pairs which she asked her sister Tash to help her sell. "It just so happened that her friend has a store in Greenhills and they were accepting consignments. Those several pairs were sold out immediately," she said.

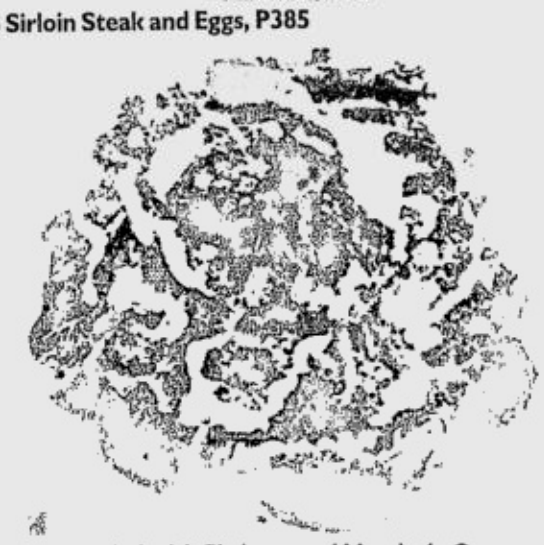
Naica found herself delivering orders by the bulk to the store. Since then, Naica has sold over 100 pairs of her fun flip flops. "Before, I was the only one making the flip flops. But because of large orders, I started teaching my aunts and cousins how to make it so they can help me out."

Naica has a lot of plans for the future, one of which is to open her own store where she can share more of her flip-flop designs with other fashion lovers. While we're waiting for Naica's dream to turn into reality, we know 100 flip-flop-loving girls are happily walking around in her button-embellished designs.

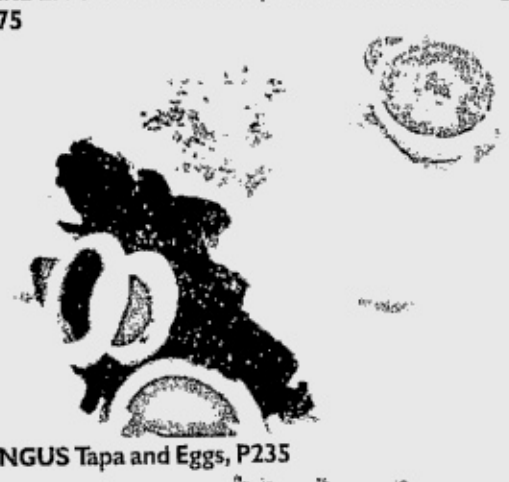
Visit photos.yahoo.com/funkybuttons00 or contact Naica and Tash through funkybuttons@gmail.com or 0916-7919804. Buttons Up flip flops are also available at Bardotte, Annapolis Lane, ground floor, Greenhills Theater Mall.

Do you want the Fashion Freaks to visit your store or see your wares? E-mail us at thefashionfreaks@yahoo.com.

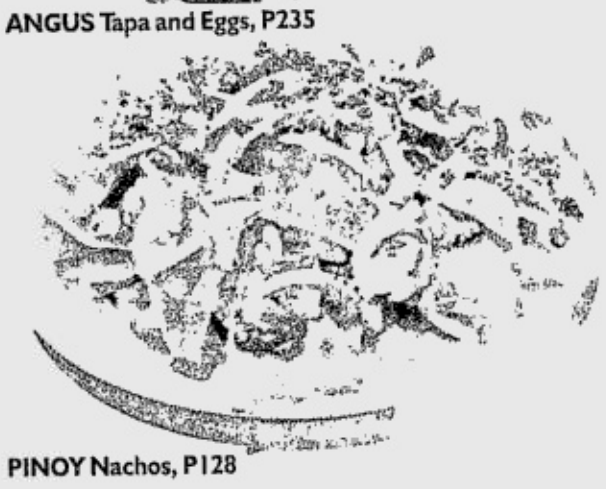
US Sirloin Steak and Eggs, P385



GARDEN Salad with Shrimps and Mandarin Oranges, P175



ANGUS Tapa and Eggs, P235



PINOY Nachos, P128

From page D1

laxed," Lily Hao said.

Aside from the calming ambience, the restaurant's menu is bound to make anyone's mouth water. Although its sign promotes its omelets, pancakes and steaks, Heaven 'N Eggs offers more than just that.

Bestsellers

The place's bestsellers include the Angus Tapa and Eggs—US Beef Tenderloin marinated and pan-fried, served with garlic rice and two eggs of choice. The *tapa* is unbelievably tender and flavorful.

Other bestsellers are Garden Salad with Shrimps and Mandarin Oranges (P175), Pinoy Nachos (Deep Fried Wanton Wrappers Smothered with Mango Salsa, Adobo Flakes, Bechamel Sauce and Spring Onions, P128)—it's a must-order; US Sirloin Steak and Eggs (250 g for P385) and Rico's Banana Caramel Pancakes (buttermilk pancakes topped with bananas sautéed in rhum and caramel, P175).

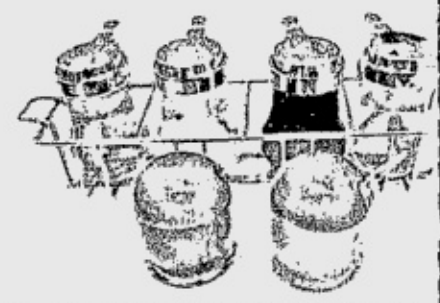
First-timers are advised to try the Pinoy Nachos, the Cheese & Onion Soup (P85), which is really creamy, the Garden Salad or the Grilled Prawns Caesar Salad and the Angus Tapa and Eggs.

Other recommended menu items are the Mango Adobo Tuna Steak (grilled tuna topped with mango *adobo* sauce, P275) and My Four Seasons Waffles (with assorted fruit toppings drizzled with honey, P165).

2bU!'s top picks are the Pork Chop and Eggs (two pieces of grilled tender juicy pork chops with mushroom gravy, P249) and Manila Spareribs with Java Rice (P195).

Diners at Heaven 'N Eggs must save room for dessert—there are different yummy cakes and pies to choose from. Our favorite is the Cream Cheese Turtle Cake (P175). It's a must for any chocolate fan.

MY Four Seasons Waffles, P165



PANCAKE syrup in four flavors (peach, coconut, maple, pineapple) and two kinds of toppings (blueberry and apple)

RICO'S Banana Caramel Pancakes, P175

The great white way

Lora Gahol

Cosmetics firms have jumped into the whitening bandwagon

I ALWAYS tell people that they'd only know true excitement once they set foot on the cosmetic division of any department store. I myself know this sensation first-hand; I still have mild palpitations every time.

On the other hand, I know how exhausting it could be to make the rounds, counter to counter, shelf to shelf, to find the products worthy of your own collection. This in mind, I've decided to take it upon myself and give you my personal picks for the best brands and product ranges for every possible need and budget. Watch out for the cream of the crop in the next few weeks. I'm starting off with the usual suspects: whitening and anti-blemish products.

Best whitening range

Splurge:

Clarins White Plus. Clarins need not be presented in grandeur, as this brand is already among the best. Immensely popular because of its tanning line, Clarins surprised me when I discovered that it has also a whitening product. Still banking on the cleanse-tone-moisturize routine, Clarins White Plus had a few surprises that were an absolute delight. The **Whitening All Spots Corrector** was wonderfully handy; it is probably the only roll-on spot corrector in the market today. A few spots short of going for an IPL treatment, I was impressed that it faded the post-blemish scars I had on my forehead in two weeks. The entire line did not bleach my face to kabuki proportions, but resuscitated my summer-damaged complexion in a jiffy.

Spend:

Nivea Visage White. I've always been a fan of Nivea's Night Repair cream, and having seen commendable results, I did not hesitate to try the rest of their lightening range. I road-tested the brand in the middle of a busy, stressful workweek, when I noticed that my "morning face" was beginning to show the unsightly signs of fatigue: dullness and flaky skin. The **Whitening Foaming Scrub** would have to be my favorite from this range, as it is the best friend a girl with rough and patchy skin could have! I did not notice significant whitening (probably because I'm very fair), but my skin felt much smoother and more even-toned three days into the regimen.

Save:

Godiva Skin Care. I strictly entrust my armpits to Godiva's antiperspirant, so following up with my face seemed logical. Since I am very particular about what I use to clean my face, I skipped the soap and went with my usual cleanser, then followed up with its **Alcohol-Free Toner.** Needless to say, it felt like a breath of fresh air (it cools the skin), and my face didn't feel dry and tight after. I recommend using their products on every part of your body pricing, you wouldn't fe all. Snaps also go to their **ening Lip Gloss**, which w ders on my chapped lips. A smooth, supple and ros show for it!

Best acne-busting ra

Splurge:

Mario Badescu Skinca heard that Mario Badesc have landed on Philippine reaction was nothing less ic! And I had a reason to: questing every relative in send me Badescu's famous **tion** since I came across it sue of Allure. Now that E ries this celebrity fave (star Jessica Parker and Ma Conaughey are huge fans) every reason to load up o **Lotion** because it surely di point! My dab-a pimple night paid off. You're als love the **Seaweed Cleans** (one of the few non-dryin cleansers around) an **Cream,** which calms angr ups with one swipe.

Spend:

L'Oreal Pure Zone. I've

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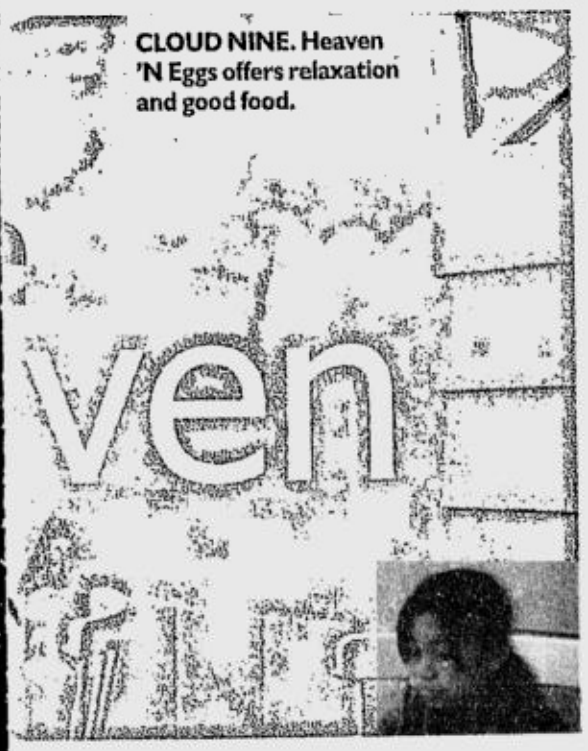

CLOUD NINE. Heaven 'N Eggs offers relaxation and good food.

GRAPE, lemon, bubble gum, lychee, strawberry soda made with the vintage soda fountain

The people behind Heaven 'N Eggs believe in empowering their patrons by giving them a lot of options. Even their pancake syrup comes in four flavors—maple, peach, pineapple, and coconut, which is the favorite. Different toppings (blueberry and apple) are also available. Diners can choose how they want their eggs to be cooked. Meals are served with any two of the following: rice, bread, pancake, mashed potatoes, fries or hash browns.

And their authentic vintage soda fountain machine, which they bought from the US, serves five different flavors—bubble gum, lychee, lemon, grape and strawberry.

Because of the countless choices, the large servings, the excellent service (what else can you expect from people wearing shirts emblazoned with the words "I am your angel"?) and reasonable prices, patrons are sure to keep coming back again and again. We're willing to bet that even real angels will sing praises for this Heaven.

Heaven 'N Eggs Glorietta (G/F, Glorietta 4) is open from 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Call 8182792. Heaven 'N Eggs Tomas Morato Ave. (G/F CKB Building, Sct. Rallos St., QC) is open from 7 a.m.-12 mn. Call 3762674.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

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mentioned

this range quite a number of times for a good reason. It's luxury skin care for a fraction of the price. It kills breakouts without peeling or burning (thanks to its Sebocalmyl component), and it doesn't damage your skin the way other anti-acne solutions do. I carry around the **Spot Treatment**, just in case I feel a zonker coming on—it usually kills it on the spot.

Save:

Clean and Clear. Remember, when using this drugstore line, that "it's just a pimple, no big deal." With Clean and Clear, you might actually believe it is. What can be easier than doing your usual three-step system and knowing that you're fighting breakouts at the same time? The foaming facial wash always gets me squeaky clean and confident that every bacterium threatening to ruin my complexion has been gotten rid of, and the oil-free moisturizer is such a grease-buster of a product, I don't need to follow up with powder. Get your hands on this one if you're active, basic, and no-fuss.

E-mail the author at lora_gahol@yahoo.com or lgahol@pldtvibe.net

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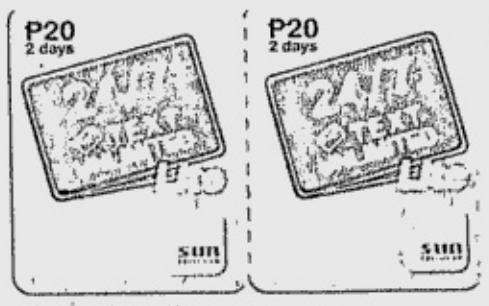
GET 2 DAYS OF UNLIMITED TEXTING FOR ONLY P20.

NOW HERE TO STAY IN HIP MINI CALL CARDS!

3 Ways to enjoy 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite:

1. Buy the NEW 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite mini call cards in authorized Sun dealers and outlets. The call cards are packaged as two but can be bought individually at P20.00 each. If you have purchased a card without a plastic wrapper, make sure that the gray protective label has not been tampered with.
2. Purchase 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite via The Mall in your Sun cellphone. Visit The Mall then click Mall Assistant>My Account>Prepaid>Buy 24/7 and choose TU 2.
3. Purchase 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite via SMS. Text **TU<space>2** and send to **247**. Texting to 247 is free of charge.



NOTES:

- After texting the keywords to 247 or choosing 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite in The Mall, you will receive a text message containing the number series ***220#** followed by a 14-digit number string. Just load up in two ways:

  - Key in ***220#** followed by the 14-digit number string then the # sign. Ensure that there are no spaces between characters then press SEND.

  OR

  - Dial **220**, press **1** then enter the 14-digit number string.

  For security purposes, it is best to load up immediately after you receive the 14-digit number string. You will need a minimum of P20, (exclusive of Convert-a-Load in your account) to purchase 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite via SMS or through The Mall.

- Upon successful loading you will immediately receive a text message reflecting your updated balances and 24/7 Text Unlimited expiry. Real-time loading, no need to wait!
- Should your regular load balance reach zero after loading up 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite via text, you can only send local Sun-to-Sun texts. To call and text subscribers on other networks, simply load up a regular Sun Cellular Prepaid call card.
- 24/7 loads have separate and distinct validity periods from regular Sun Cellular Prepaid loads.

choose from these 24/7 unlimited choices

Applicable to local Sun-to-Sun calls & texts.

SUN CELLULAR PREPAID

Better Network. Better Value.

Saying goodbye to Wolfmann

The rock music world mourns the loss of Wilfrid Hernandez

By Christian B. Bautista
2bU! Correspondent

THE LOCAL music community recently suffered a great loss with the tragic passing of Wilfrid Hernandez, who was more popularly known to music fans as "Wolfmann." He recently succumbed to aneurysm. He was 28.

An innovator who married the two parallel worlds of electronica and rock, Wolfmann captured the hearts of fans through his unique and uncompromising style. Wilf, as most of his friends called him, made two independently-released albums; "Breaking the Beat" (2002) and "Diner" (2004).

In honor of a great human being and a great musician, here are some thoughts of people who have fond memories of him:

"I miss him every day. He left without saying goodbye. None of us was really prepared for it. I know he wants us to be happy. But he must forgive us if we grieve. I'll always remember him more as a friend than a bandmate. If I could talk to him now, I'd tell him, *hanggang sa muli*." — **Ebe Dancel** (Sugarfree/Cambio/Wolfmann+)

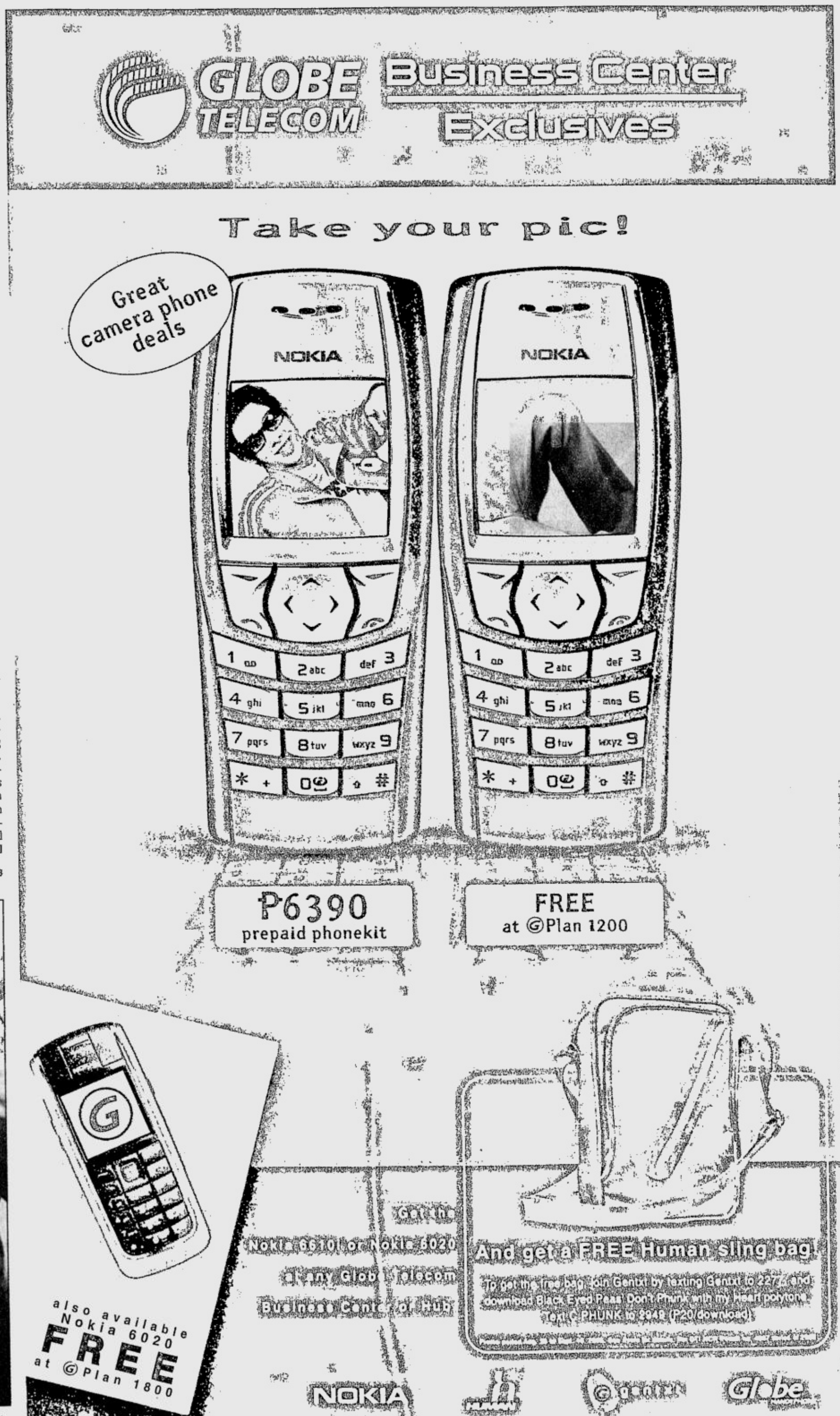
"I saw Wilf as my brother, *kuya* to be exact. I looked up to him and consulted him about anything music-related. Any question I had, I'd call or text him. He always had time to help. We were very much alike. We were both the only boys (in our families) and we were both in the middle. I guess that's why we could relate more than just in electronica." — **Cyril Sorongon**, aka Silverfilter

"He's always with a smile on his face, never in a bad mood. He's probably rocking out heaven right now." — **Trish Cabral** (NU107)

"Wilf has always been the kind of friend who has your back. He is genuinely interested in you and sincerely loves applauding and cheering for you. He's a reliable buddy. He was passionate and hungry for great music. Even if it takes him forever to set up his stuff, he'll do it to make sure he'll give you a great set. He loves immersing himself in people's stories. That's why he's always present in productions, launches, special events. *Masipag*. Persistent. Just last night I

SAYING/E3

WOLFMANN always did things his own way.



FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're very aware of your public reputation. You want to influence others with your good ideas. You're a natural psychologist; you understand what motivates others. People find you entertaining and charming. In turn, you're very involved in whatever you do. The year ahead is full of exciting, fresh, new beginnings.
Birthdate of: Eldridge Cleaver, activist; Maria Montessori, physician/educator; Richard Gere, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Power outages and computer crashes are highly possible at work today. Unexpected events catch you off-guard. Technology is definitely unpredictable in some way.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Try not to be jealous of romantic interest today. Conversely, don't make somebody else jealous. You feel a bit bored, and you're looking for adventure. (Try to be grown-up about this.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is not a good day to challenge the boss or a parent. Explosions could surprise you! People are restless, edgy and extremely unpredictable today. (Cool your jets.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a mildly accident-prone day. Be careful when driving or walking. Similarly, be careful about what comes out of your mouth. You might blurt out something you're thinking and unwittingly offend someone.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Guard against impulse shopping today. For that matter, keep track of your money today. You might lose it accidentally. On the other hand, you might also find money. (Good luck.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Try to be aware of everything you say to your partner or a close friend today. Unthinking comments could trigger arguments. People are touchy, and this includes you! Have patience.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You feel so restless that you're almost tempted to stir the pot in some way, either at work or in your closest relationships. This is not the best way to entertain yourself. Be kind.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): A friend or group will probably surprise you today. Possibly, you'll meet someone who is truly a character—someone different from you. It's definitely an interesting day.

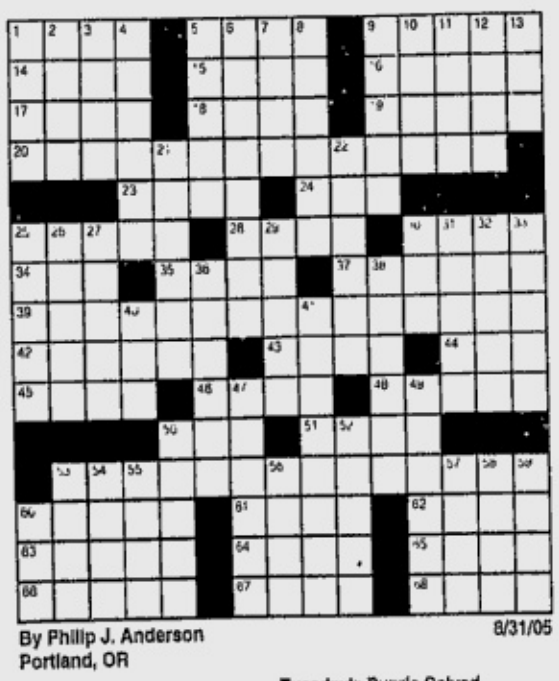
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You feel that whatever happens today is the last straw. You have no patience for authority. But is this wise? We all have to deal with authority figures in different ways.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Surprise news from far away might please you. Unexpected events connected with publishing, travel, foreign countries and the law are likely.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Guard your possessions today. You might lose something, or you might find something. Also guard against feeling jealous of others. Just let it ride.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Try to be diplomatic with partners. This is a classic day for blow-ups, disagreements and misunderstandings. If you're patient, you can handle this with grace and tolerance. (You can do this.)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

8/31/05

ACROSS
1 Buddy Down Under
5 Siberian river
9 Boorish
14 Matured
15 Behind schedule
16 Wheel spokes
17 Lumber source
18 Q.E.D. word
19 Roasting compartments
20 Carpenter's tantrum?
23 Dote lead-in?
24 Imitate
25 German sausage
28 Back of the neck
30 Palm fruit
34 Stevedores' org.
35 Skeptic's retort
37 Caught red-handed
39 D.C. shopping spree?
42 Brunch choice
43 Corn units
44 Born in Bordeaux
45 Armed conflicts
46 Material flaw
48 Hones
50 Sea wiggler
51 1958 Pulitzer Prize winner
53 Brit's beach sport?
60 Pear-shaped fruit
61 Rope fiber
62 "Star Trek: TNG" character
63 Assign
64 Ballerina's skirt
65 Actor Holliman
66 Rock
67 Fr. holy women
68 Concavity

DOWN
1 Alg. or trig.
2 Taj Mahal's place
3 Pour profusely
4 Botanical swellings
5 On guard
6 Rigid disciplinarian
7 Deseret, today
8 Capture again
9 Director Cameron
10 Sitarist Shankar
11 Arabian Gulf port
12 Belt out
13 Female slb
21 Lure
22 First of several
25 Surviving wife
26 Muslim scholars
27 Olympian Johnson
29 All confused
30 Carried out
31 Fashionable shape
32 Belief
33 Advantages
36 Once __, twice shy
38 Response
40 They: Fr.
41 Leech
47 Votes in
49 Hoisted
50 Maternally related
52 Spiritual leaders
53 Religious sect
54 Angelic feature
55 Makeup marketer
56 Clumsy fellow
57 "Dies __"
58 Norse goddess of fate
59 Young sow
60 Neon or chlorine

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

L	A	M	A	■	O	M	E	G	A	■	U	R	N	S
A	T	O	P	■	N	O	L	A	N	■	S	E	A	N
S	O	U	N	D	S	O	F	S	I	L	E	N	C	E
S	N	E	E	R	E	D	■	T	O	I	■	O	L	E
■	■	■	I	N	T	■	B	A	N	T	A	M	■	■
S	A	C	C	O	■	L	O	X	■	T	R	I	L	L
U	N	O	■	■	P	O	P	■	A	L	A	N	I	A
S	T	R	I	K	E	U	P	T	H	E	B	A	N	D
H	E	R	N	I	A	■	E	R	A	■	■	T	E	E
I	D	I	O	M	■	F	R	Y	■	S	L	E	D	S
■	■	■	G	N	O	S	I	S	■	A	P	E	■	■
A	V	E	■	N	T	S	■	T	R	A	V	O	I	S
C	A	N	Y	O	U	H	E	A	R	M	E	N	O	W
H	I	D	E	■	M	E	N	S	A	■	E	T	T	A
E	L	A	N	■	P	R	E	S	S	■	S	O	A	P

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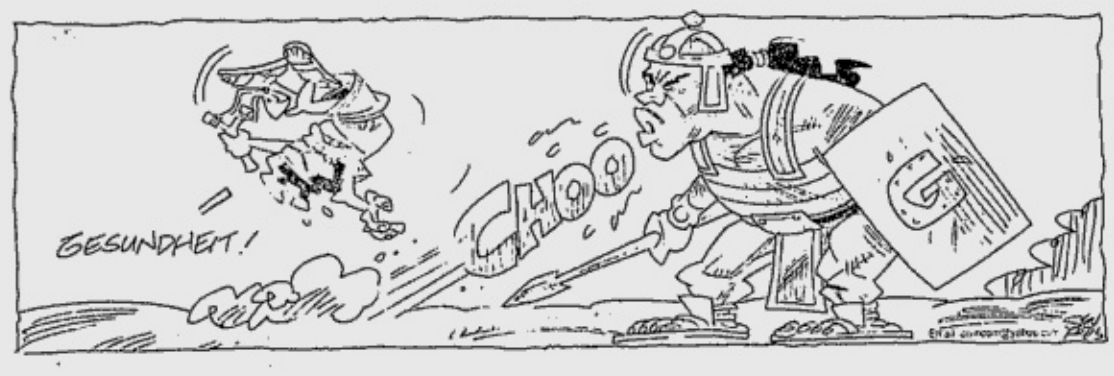
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS



SALAMIN BY DARWIN PEREZ

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING